

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
15 July 2003

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Fifty-eighth session

Item 122 of the preliminary list*

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa**Report of the Secretary-General****I. Introduction**

1. By its resolution 56/270 of 27 March 2002, the General Assembly approved the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa with a total area of approximately 6,770 square metres.
2. In accordance with that resolution, progress reports are to be submitted on an annual basis. The present report reviews the progress made on the project since the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/57/322).

II. Status and development of the project

3. The general status and development of the project were outlined in the previous report (*ibid.*, paras. 6-9). The report informed the General Assembly that the request for proposals for professional architectural and engineering services had been submitted to the Procurement Division and that an agreement had been negotiated with the host country regarding tax exemptions for construction material and other construction-related issues. The principal developments since that time are described below.
4. The request for proposals for professional architectural and engineering services was issued to selected firms by November 2002, as scheduled. Four firms were technically and financially evaluated after the closing date in January 2003. During the assessment process, serious doubts were raised by ECA concerning the proposal from the lowest bidder over the company's staffing, continuity and overall responsibility for pre- and post-contract duties. The lowest bidder would, in effect,

* A/58/50/Rev. I and Corr. I.



have been substantially subcontracting out the design work and site supervision to a considerably less qualified firm. Two of the other proposals were unacceptable financially, and the Organization had had prior negative experience with the fourth bidder. Careful and extensive consultations at Headquarters and with ECA resulted in a decision to re-bid expeditiously, a process expected to be completed by the end of August 2003.

5. A construction architect was recruited in June 2003 to act as project coordinator at ECA, establishing the basis for the Project Coordination Unit to begin functioning.

6. An agreement between the United Nations and the host Government for additional land to the east of the current ECA compound was concluded in June 2003 with a grant of 21,145 square metres (see annex for proposed site plan), part of which will be utilized for the new building.

7. The difficulties encountered during the review of the proposals received in response to the request for proposals and the decision to re-bid the design work resulted, unfortunately, in a ten-month delay. It is felt, however, that the decision to re-bid is in the best interest of the Organization, as the selection of a poorly qualified architectural and engineering firm could have serious negative consequences for the remaining phases of the construction project.

8. A revised project schedule of design consultancy and construction activities, with milestone dates, is summarized below:

(a) Preparation, mobilization, bidding and identification of consultants is to be completed by September 2003;

(b) Design and preparation of tender and construction documents is to take place from September 2003 to May 2004;

(c) Tender bidding, selection of a construction contractor by the Procurement Division and awarding of the contract is to take place from May to December 2004;

(d) The construction phase is to last from December 2004 to November 2006;

(e) Construction is to be completed in November 2006;

(f) The occupation of the building and the 12-month warranty period is to begin in November 2006.

9. It is expected that the delay will not affect the total cost of the project.

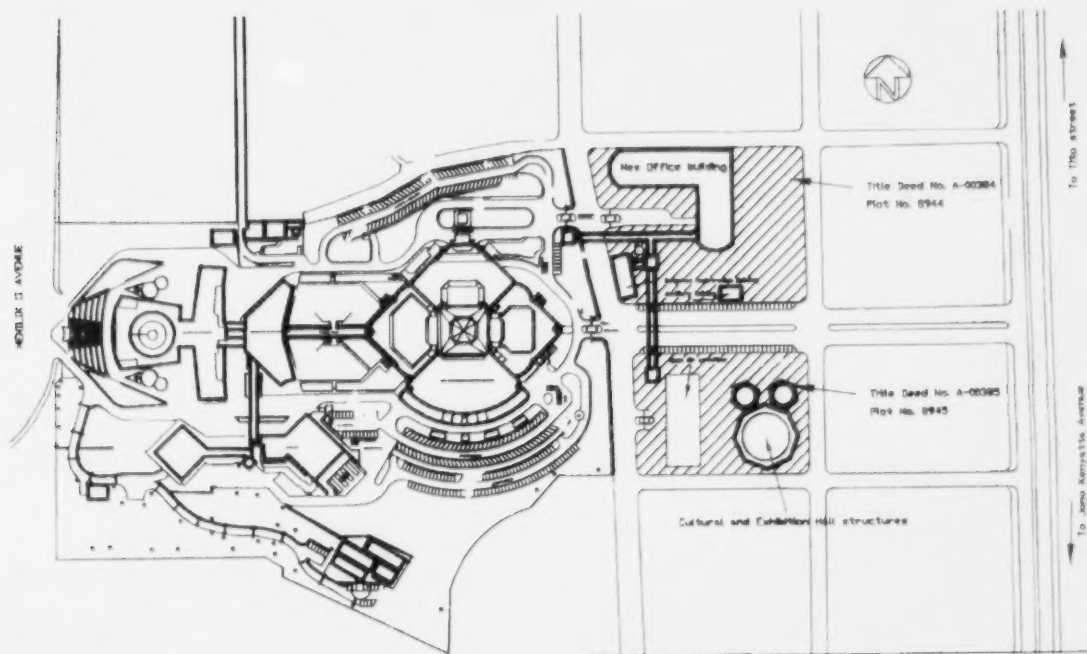
III. Conclusion

10. The activities related to the construction of additional office facilities at ECA are progressing as per the revised schedule set out in paragraph 8 above.

11. The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.

Annex

**Proposed site plan for additional office facilities at the
Economic Commission for Africa^a**



^a Not to scale.

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Item 85 of the preliminary list*

**Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices
Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People
and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories**

**Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the
Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August
1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East
Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories**

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/125 of 11 December 2002, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,¹ is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;

"3. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions,² to continue to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

² Ibid., Nos. 970-973.



"4. *Reiterates* the need for speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted at its tenth emergency special session with regard to ensuring respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the provisions of the Convention;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 10 June 2003, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Government of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Government of Israel inform him of any steps the Government had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. By a note verbale dated 10 June 2003, the Secretary-General also drew the attention of all States parties to the Convention to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 57/125 and paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution 57/128 of 11 December 2002.



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Item 85 of the preliminary list*

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 57/127 of 11 December 2002, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Determines that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,¹ and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity;

"2. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949² and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation of the Convention, including extrajudiciary executions;

"3. Condemns acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, resulting in extensive loss of life, vast numbers of injuries and massive destruction;

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

² *Ibid.*



"4. *Also condemns* the recent events that have occurred in the Jenin refugee camp, including the loss of life, injury, destruction and displacement inflicted on many of its civilian inhabitants;

"5. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people;

"6. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial integrity of all the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including the removal of restrictions on movement into and from East Jerusalem, and the freedom of movement to and from the outside world;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 10 June 2003, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Government of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Government inform him of any steps it had taken, or envisaged taking, concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

**General Assembly**

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Item 135 of the preliminary list*

**Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses
of United Nations peacekeeping operations****Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 55/235
and 55/236****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

In its resolution 55/235, the General Assembly reaffirmed the principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations and adopted a new system of adjustments of the scale of assessments for the regular budget to be used in fixing rates of assessment applicable to peacekeeping operations. This system was based on assigning each Member State to one of 10 levels, using its average per capita gross national product during the period 1993-1998 and other criteria. Also in its resolution 55/235, the Assembly decided on assessment percentages for the Republic of Korea until 2005, as an ad hoc arrangement. In resolution 55/236, it welcomed voluntary movements by a number of Member States to levels higher than would result from the application of the new system.

In its resolution 55/235, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to update the composition of the levels on a triennial basis, in conjunction with the reviews of the scale of assessments for the regular budget, in accordance with the criteria established in the resolution, and to report thereon to the General Assembly. The present report responds to that request and provides information on changes in the peacekeeping levels of Member States based on average per capita gross national income (GNI) during the period 1996-2001. These are based on the same data used by the Committee on Contributions in preparing the scale of assessments that it has recommended to the General Assembly for the period 2004-2006. In preparing this report, the Secretary-General has drawn on his earlier report on the implementation of resolutions 55/235 and 55/236 (A/C.5/55/38), and has also reflected a request from the Republic of Korea.

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.



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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, the General Assembly established certain principles to be applied to the financing of peacekeeping operations. Subsequently, in its resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973, the Assembly made ad hoc arrangements for the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) based on those principles. These ad hoc arrangements involved basing each Member State's rate of assessment for UNEF on its rate of assessment for the regular budget, as adjusted based on its assignment to one of four groups. Member States in groups C and D had their regular budget rates reduced by 80 and 90 per cent respectively, those in group B paid at the same rate and the permanent members of the Security Council, assigned to group A, paid the difference pro rata to their rates of assessment for the regular budget. This ad hoc formula was applied subsequently, subject to a number of changes over the years to the membership of groups B, C and D.

2. In its resolution 55/235 of 23 December 2000, the General Assembly reaffirmed the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations and established a new system of adjustments of regular budget scale rates in establishing Member States' rates of assessment for peacekeeping operations. This system was based on a number of criteria, including a comparison of the average per capita gross national product (GNP) of each Member State during the six-year base period used for preparing the scale of assessments with the corresponding average for all Member States. These criteria, which were set out in paragraph 10 of resolution 55/235, were used to place each Member State in one of 10 levels, from A to J.

3. In its resolution 55/236, also of 23 December 2000, the General Assembly welcomed decisions by a number of Member States to move voluntarily to higher levels than required under the criteria set out in paragraph 10 of resolution 55/235.

4. In his subsequent report on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 55/235 and 55/236 (A/C.5/55/38), the Secretary-General outlined his understanding of the provisions of the resolutions and how he intended to carry out his responsibilities under resolution 55/235. The present report reflects the understandings outlined in that earlier report. It also reflects a request received from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea.

II. Composition of levels for the financing of peacekeeping operations

5. The initial composition of levels used for establishing rates of assessment for peacekeeping operations for the period 1 July 2001 to 31 December 2003 was listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 55/235. Permanent members of the Security Council were included in level A. Member States on the list of the least developed countries were included in level J. Specified Member States were included in level C. The placement of other Member States was based on their average per capita GNP during the six-year base period (data for 1993-1998) used for the scale of assessments for 2001-2003 in relation to the average for all Member States. The thresholds applied were set out in the table in paragraph 10 of resolution 55/235. The initial placement of Member States in levels B and D to I was based on

their average per capita GNP for the six-year base period 1993-1998 and the average per capita GNP of all Member States for that period, which was \$4,797.

6. In its resolution 55/5 B of 23 December 2000, the General Assembly decided that the elements used in preparing the scale of assessments for the period 2001-2003 should be fixed until 2006. On this basis, the scale of assessments recommended by the Committee on Contributions for the period 2004-2006¹ also has two base periods, of six (1996-2001) and three (1999-2001) years. Based on the practice adopted by the General Assembly for the current composition of levels, the Secretary-General has used the average data on gross national income (GNI) for the six-year base period, used by the Committee on Contributions in considering the next scale of assessments, when updating the composition of levels for the triennium 2004-2006. As outlined in the report of the Committee on Contributions,² the concept of GNP in the System of National Accounts, 1968 has been renamed GNI in the System of National Accounts, 1993 but this is just a refinement of product and income concepts and does not entail a change in the actual coverage of the concept.

7. The average per capita GNI of the Member States of the United Nations for the six-year base period 1996-2001 was \$5,094. The corresponding thresholds for levels B and D to I are reflected in the table in annex I to the present report. Based on these thresholds, and prior to the application of any phasing or voluntary movements, Argentina would move down from level F to level G, the Bahamas would move up from D to B, Bahrain from E to B, Barbados from F to E, the Czech Republic from I to H, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from I to G, Palau from G to E, Saint Kitts and Nevis from H to G, Saudi Arabia from G to F and Slovenia from E to D. In addition, having been added to the list of least developed countries since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 55/235, Senegal would move from I to J and Switzerland and Timor-Leste, which were admitted to the United Nations after the adoption of resolution 55/235, would be added to the list at levels B and I respectively. The table in annex II reflects the initial levels and voluntary and ad hoc movements for the period 2001-2003 (columns 1 and 2), the initial composition of levels for 2004-2006 (column 3), assumed voluntary and ad hoc movements for 2004-2006 (column 4) and the transitional periods (column 5), where appropriate. Based on this information, it also shows the respective percentage of rates of assessment for the regular budget payable by each Member State for peacekeeping operations during 2004-2006 (columns 6 to 10).

8. Based on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 55/235, the movement upwards of the Bahamas, Bahrain, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Palau are subject to the appropriate transitional periods. These have been applied in the manner outlined in the Secretary-General's earlier report (A/C.5/55/38) and are reflected in annex II. In addition, Hungary moved voluntarily to level B, with a five-year transitional period ending on 1 July 2005. As indicated in annex II, Hungary would otherwise come under level I. The continuing application of its transitional period is reflected in annex II.

9. In its resolution 55/235, the General Assembly also decided, as an ad hoc arrangement, to assess the share of the Republic of Korea in the costs of peacekeeping operations at 36 per cent of the regular budget assessment rate from 1 July 2001, 52 per cent in 2002, 68 per cent in 2003, 84 per cent in 2004 and 100 per cent in 2005. In a letter dated 10 July 2003 to the Secretary-General (attached as annex III), the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United

Nations conveyed his Government's request that the Republic of Korea be assigned to the lowest level of contribution, with the highest level of discount for which it is eligible on the basis of its per capita GNP for 2004-2006 in the context of the triennial updating of the composition of the peacekeeping levels, pursuant to the general provisions of General Assembly resolution 55/235, paragraphs 9 and 11. That is level D.

10. In view of the position of the Republic of Korea, and since the General Assembly has taken no decision with regard to its placement after 2005, the Secretariat's assumption is that the Republic of Korea should be placed in level D in 2006. As regards its placement in 2004-2005, the General Assembly may wish to consider whether to revisit its earlier decision in paragraph 22 of its resolution 55/235. The two possible approaches are both reflected in annex II.

11. As indicated in General Assembly resolution 55/236, a number of Member States voluntarily moved to levels higher than required by the criteria set out in paragraph 10 of resolution 55/235. As indicated in the Secretary-General's earlier report (A/C.5/55/38), it is the understanding of the Secretariat that the voluntary movement by Turkey to level F was limited to the period until 2003. For the other Member States affected, it is the Secretariat's understanding that for 2004-2006 they should be included at their voluntarily established levels for 2001-2003, unless their revised levels would otherwise be higher or unless they indicate a decision to revert to a lower level for which they are eligible. No such indications have been received from the Member States concerned.

12. In the case of the Czech Republic, its voluntary movement from I to H in 2001-2003 involved its paying at 30 per cent, rather than 20 per cent, of its regular budget rates of assessment. This was due to the provision in resolution 55/235 that those Member States that volunteered to move up to level H would pay at 30 per cent (indicated in annex II as H*), rather than the 20 per cent rate applicable to those initially falling under level H. For the purposes of updating the composition of levels, the Secretariat has assumed that the Czech Republic should continue to be assessed at 30 per cent of its rate of assessment for the regular budget.

III. Rates of assessment for the financing of peacekeeping operations

13. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 55/235, the updated composition of levels, reflected in annex II and subject to the Assembly's decision with regard to the placement of the Republic of Korea in 2004-2005, will be used, together with the scale of assessments for 2004-2006, to establish each Member State's peacekeeping rate/s of assessment. The General Assembly will consider the scale of assessments for the period 2004-2006, as well as the request from the Republic of Korea, during its fifty-eighth session. Until it has adopted a new scale, and subject to its decision concerning the request from the Republic of Korea, it will not be possible to determine the corresponding rates of assessment for peacekeeping for the period 2004-2006.

14. For illustrative purposes, however, the tables in annexes IV and V show the peacekeeping rates of assessment (correct to four decimal places) corresponding to the scale of assessments for the period 2004-2006 recommended by the Committee

on Contributions.² In annex IV, the rates for the Republic of Korea are based on paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 55/235 and its placement in level D in 2006. Annex V reflects the same parameters, except that the Republic of Korea is placed in level D for the full period 2004-2006.

IV. Conclusions

15. The General Assembly may wish to take note of this report and to consider the request from the Republic of Korea concerning its placement among the 10 peacekeeping levels.

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 11 (A/58/11)* para 42.

² *Ibid.*, para. 20.

Annex I

**Peacekeeping levels, based on average per capita gross national income
of Member States and other factors**

Level	Criteria	Thresholds in United States dollars (2004-2006)	Discount (percentage)
A	Permanent members of the Security Council	N/A	Premium
B	All Member States, except those covered below and level A	N/A	0
C	As listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 55/235	N/A	7.5
D	Member States with per capita GNI less than 2 times the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 10 188	20
E	Member States with per capita GNI less than 1.8 times the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 9 169	40
F	Member States with per capita GNI less than 1.6 times the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 8 150	60
G	Member States with per capita GNI less than 1.4 times the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 7 131	70
H	Member States with per capita GNI less than 1.2 times the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 6 112	80 (or 70 on a voluntary basis)
I	Member States with per capita GNI less than the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 5 094	80
J	Least developed countries (except level A and C contributors)	N/A	90

Annex II

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 55/235 and 55/236, 2004-2006

Member State	1 Level in annex to resolution 55/235 for 2001-03	2 Voluntary or ad hoc level during 1/7-31/12 2003 - if different	3 Level in 2004-06 based on data for 1996-2001	4 Assumed voluntary or ad hoc level in 2004-06 if different	5 Phasing for Members moving up - in years	Percentage of regular budget rates payable				
						6 1/1-30/6 2004	7 1/7-31/12 2004	8 1/1-30/6 2005	9 1/7-31/12 2005	10 1/1-31/12 2006
Afghanistan	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Albania	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Algeria	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Andorra	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Angola	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Antigua and Barbuda	E		E			60	60	60	60	60
Argentina	F		G			30	30	30	30	30
Armenia	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Australia	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Austria	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Azerbaijan	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Bahamas	D		B		2	90	90	100	100	100
Bahrain	E		B		1	73 333	73 333	86 666	86 666	100
Bangladesh	I		J			10	10	10	10	10
Barbados	F		F			60	60	60	60	60
Belarus	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Belgium	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Belize	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Benin	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Bhutan	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Bolivia	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Bosnia and Herzegovina	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Botswana	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Brazil	C		C			92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5
Buena Vista	C	H *	C	H *		30	30	30	30	30
Bulgaria	I	a	I			10	10	10	10	10
Burkina Faso	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Burundi	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Cameroon	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Canada	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Cape Verde	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Central African Republic	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Chad	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Chile	I		I			100 +	100 +	100 +	100 +	100 +
China	A		A			20	20	20	20	20
Colombia	I		I			20	20	20	20	20

Member State	1 Level in annex to resolution 55/235 for 2001-03	2 Voluntary or ad hoc level during 1/7-31/12 2003 - if different	3 Level in 2004-06 based on data for 1996-2001	4 Assumed voluntary or ad hoc level in 2004-06 - if different	5 Phasing for Members moving up - in years	6 1/1-30/6 2004	7 1/7-31/12 2004	8 1/1-30/6 2005	9 1/7-31/12 2005	10 1/1-31/12 2006
Percentage of regular budget rates payable										
Comoros	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Congo	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Costa Rica	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Côte d'Ivoire	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Croatia	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Cuba	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Cyprus	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Czech Republic	I	H *	I	H *		30	30	30	30	30
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Democratic Republic of the Congo	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Denmark	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Djibouti	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Dominica	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Dominican Republic	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Ecuador	I		I			10	10	10	10	10
Egypt	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
El Salvador	I		I			10	10	10	10	10
Equatorial Guinea	J		J	B		100	100	100	100	100
Eritrea	J	B	I			10	10	10	10	10
Estonia	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Ethiopia	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Fiji	I		I			100	100	100	100	100
Finland	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
France	A		A			100 +	100 +	100 +	100 +	100 +
Gabon	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Gambia	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Georgia	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Germany	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Ghana	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Greece	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Grenada	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Guatemala	I		I			10	10	10	10	10
Guinea	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Guinea-Bissau	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Guyana	I		I			10	10	10	10	10
Haiti	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Honduras	I		I			10	10	10	10	10
Hungary	I	B	I	B	1.5 b	60	80	80	80	100
Iceland	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
India	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Indonesia	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Iraq	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Ireland	B		B			100	100	100	100	100

Member State	1. Level in annex to resolution 55/235 for 2001-03	2. Voluntary or ad hoc level during 1/7-31/12 2003 - if different	3. Level in 2004-06 based on data for 1996-2001	4. Assumed voluntary or ad hoc level in 2004-06, if different	5. Phasing for Members moving up in years	Percentage of regular budget rates payable				
						6. 1/1-30/6 2004	7. 1/7-31/12 2004	8. 1/1-30/6 2005	9. 1/7-31/12 2005	10. 1/1-31/12 2006
Israel	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Italy	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Jamaica	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Japan	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Jordan	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Kazakhstan	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Kenya	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Kiribati	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Kuwait	C		C			10	10	10	10	10
Kyrgyzstan	J		J			92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5
Lao People's Democratic Republic	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Latvia	J	H *	J	H *		10	10	10	10	10
Lebanon	J		J			30	30	30	30	30
Lesotho	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Liberia	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	J		J		2	10	10	10	10	10
Liechtenstein	B		B			25	35	30	30	30
Lithuania	J	H *	J	H *		100	100	100	100	100
Luxembourg	B		B			30	30	30	30	30
Madagascar	J		J			100	100	100	100	100
Malawi	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Malaysia	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Maldives	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Mali	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Malta	E		E			10	10	10	10	10
Marshall Islands	J	B	J	B		100	100	100	100	100
Mauritania	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Mauritius	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Mexico	J		J			100	100	100	100	100
Micronesia (Federated States of)	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Morocco	B		B			10	10	10	10	10
Mongolia	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Morocco	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Mozambique	J		J			100	100	100	100	100
Nicaragua	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Namibia	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Nauru	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Nepal	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Netherlands	B		B			10	10	10	10	10
New Zealand	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Nicaragua	J		J			100	100	100	100	100
Niger	J		J			20	20	20	20	20
Nigeria	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Norway	B		B			20	20	20	20	20

Member State	1. Level in annex to resolution 55/235 for 2001-03	2. Voluntary or ad hoc level during 1/7-31/12 2003 - if different	3. Level in 2004-06 based on data for 1996-2001	4. Assumed voluntary or ad hoc level in 2004-06 - if different	5. Phasing for Members moving up - in years	Percentage of regular budget rates payable				
						6. 1/1-30/6 2004	7. 1/7-31/12 2004	8. 1/1-30/6 2005	9. 1/7-31/12 2005	10. 1/1-31/12 2006
Oman	G		G			30	30	30	30	30
Pakistan	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Palau	G		E		2	45	45	60	60	60
Panama	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Papua New Guinea	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Paraguay	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Peru	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Philippines	I	H*	a	H*		30	30	30	30	30
Poland	I	H*	a	H*		30	30	30	30	30
Portugal	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Qatar	C		C			92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5
Republic of Korea	D	B	C	B/D	I/C	84.80	84.80	100.80	100.80	80
Republic of Moldova	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Romania	I	H*	a	H*		30	30	30	30	30
Russian Federation	A		A			100 +	100 +	100 +	100 +	100 +
Rwanda	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Saint Kitts and Nevis	H		G			30	30	30	30	30
Saint Lucia	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Samoa	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
San Marino	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Sao Tome and Principe	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Saudi Arabia	G		F			40	40	40	40	40
Senegal	I		I			10	10	10	10	10
Serbia and Montenegro	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Seychelles	F		F			40	40	40	40	40
Sierra Leone	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Singapore	C		C			92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5
Slovakia	I	H*	a	H*		30	30	30	30	30
Slovenia	E	B	D	B		100	100	100	100	100
Solomon Islands	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Somalia	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
South Africa	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Spain	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Sri Lanka	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Sudan	J		J			10	10	10	10	10
Suriname	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Swaziland	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Sweden	B		B			100	100	100	100	100
Switzerland	I		a	B		100	100	100	100	100
Syrian Arab Republic	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Tajikistan	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
Thailand	I		I			20	20	20	20	20
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	I		I			20	20	20	20	20

Member State	1. Level in annex to resolution 55/235, for 2001-03	2. Voluntary or ad hoc level during 1/7-31/12 2003, if different	3. Level in 2004, on basis of data for 1996-2001	4. Assumed voluntary or ad hoc level in 2004-06, if different	5. Paying for Members moving up in 2005	6. 1/1-30/6 2004	7. 1/7-31/12 2004	8. 1/1-30/6 2005	9. 1/7-31/12 2005	10. 1/1-31/12 2006
Percentage of regular budget rate payable										
Timor-Leste		d				20	20	20	20	20
Togo	f					10	10	10	10	10
Tonga	f					20	20	20	20	20
Trinidad and Tobago	f					20	20	20	20	20
Tunisia	f					20	20	20	20	20
Turkey	f	e				20	20	20	20	20
Turkmenistan	f					20	20	20	20	20
Tuvalu	f					10	10	10	10	10
Uganda	f					10	10	10	10	10
Ukraine	f					20	20	20	20	20
United Arab Emirates	k					92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A		A			100	100	100	100	100
United Republic of Tanzania	f					10	10	10	10	10
United States of America	A		A			100	100	100	100	100
Uruguay	f					20	20	20	20	20
Uzbekistan	f					20	20	20	20	20
Vanuatu	f					10	10	10	10	10
Venezuela	f					20	20	20	20	20
Niger	f					20	20	20	20	20
Yemen	f					10	10	10	10	10
Zambia	f					10	10	10	10	10
Zimbabwe	f					20	20	20	20	20

Notes

- a. Member States that moved voluntarily up to level H paid at 30 per cent of their regular budget and it is assumed that this would continue.
- b. Hungary agreed to move up to level H with a transition period of five years, ending with the scale period beginning on 1 July 2005.
- c. The General Assembly decided on a phased increase of the rate paid by the Republic of Korea for peacekeeping operations, beginning on 1 July 2001 with payment at 100 per cent of the regular budget rate in 2005. In a letter dated 10 July 2003, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations has requested that his country should be assigned to the lowest level of contribution for which it is eligible on the basis of its per capita GNP. As resolution 55/235 makes no provision beyond 2005, it is assumed that the Republic of Korea will be assigned to level D in 2006. As regards its placement for 2004-2005, both possibilities are shown, pending a decision by the General Assembly.
- d. Switzerland and Timor-Leste were admitted to the United Nations in 2002. By its resolution 57/4 B, the General Assembly placed Switzerland in level B for 2003-2007 and Timor-Leste in level I.
- e. Turkey voluntarily moved up to levels H and F during 2001-2003 but did so for the remainder of the scale period only.

Annex III

Letter dated 10 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea addressed to the Secretary-General

It is my honour to draw your attention to the peacekeeping assessment rates of the Republic of Korea for the period 2004-2006, which will be decided at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

In its resolutions 55/235 and 55/236, the General Assembly made a number of decisions with regard to the financing of peacekeeping operations in 2001 and beyond. As for the Republic of Korea, it was decided in paragraph 22 of resolution 55/235 to assess, as an ad hoc arrangement, its share in the costs of peacekeeping operations in the following manner: 36 per cent of the regular budget assessment beginning on 1 July 2001, 52 per cent in 2002, 68 per cent in 2003, 84 per cent in 2004 and 100 per cent in 2005.

My Government's agreement to the provision to move the Republic of Korea to level B in five years was based on the expectation that the average per capita gross national product (GNP) of the Republic of Korea for the six-year period 1996-2001 would exceed the threshold for level B. However, the national accounts data compiled on the basis of recent economic statistics show that the average per capita GNP of the Republic of Korea remains below level B.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 55/235, paragraph 15, requested the Secretary-General to update the composition of the 10 levels set out in the resolution on a triennial basis, in conjunction with the reviews of the regular budget scale of assessments, in accordance with the criteria established in the resolution, and to report thereon to the General Assembly.

In this regard, my Government wishes to request that the Republic of Korea be assigned to the lowest level of contribution with the highest level of discount for which it is eligible on the basis of its per capita GNP for 2004-2006 in the context of the triennial updating of the composition of the levels, pursuant to the general provisions of General Assembly resolution 55/235, paragraphs 9 and 11.

My Government's request is fully in accord with the letter and spirit of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 55/235, as well as the fundamental principle of scale of assessments, that is, "capacity to pay".

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have my Government's request duly reflected in your report on updating the composition of the peacekeeping scale levels on a triennial basis, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

Annex IV

Effective rates of assessment for peacekeeping, 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2006, based on the regular budget scale of assessments recommended by the Committee on Contributions^a (with the Republic of Korea moving as specified in resolution 55/235 and reverting to level D in 2006)

Member State	Regular budget	1 January 2004	1 July 2004	1 January 2005	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Level A						
China	2 070	2 5228	2 5213	2 5044	2 5029	2 5231
France	6 080	7 4098	7 4056	7 3558	7 3517	7 4107
Russian Federation	0 466	0 5679	0 5676	0 5638	0 5635	0 5680
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6 178	7 5293	7 5250	7 4744	7 4701	7 5302
United States of America	22 000	26 8119	26 7968	26 6166	26 6014	26 8152
Total A	36 794	44 8418	44 8164	44 5150	44 4896	44 8472
Level B						
Andorra	0 005	0 0050	0 0050	0 0050	0 0050	0 0050
Australia	1 606	1 6060	1 6060	1 6060	1 6060	1 6060
Austria	0 867	0 8670	0 8670	0 8670	0 8670	0 8670
Belgium	1 078	1 0780	1 0780	1 0780	1 0780	1 0780
Canada	2 837	2 8370	2 8370	2 8370	2 8370	2 8370
Cyprus	0 039	0 0390	0 0390	0 0390	0 0390	0 0390
Denmark	0 724	0 7240	0 7240	0 7240	0 7240	0 7240
Estonia	0 012	0 0120	0 0120	0 0120	0 0120	0 0120
Finland	0 535	0 5350	0 5350	0 5350	0 5350	0 5350
Germany	8 733	8 7330	8 7330	8 7330	8 7330	8 7330
Greece	0 534	0 5340	0 5340	0 5340	0 5340	0 5340
Iceland	0 034	0 0340	0 0340	0 0340	0 0340	0 0340
Ireland	0 353	0 3530	0 3530	0 3530	0 3530	0 3530
Israel	0 471	0 4710	0 4710	0 4710	0 4710	0 4710
Italy	4 926	4 9260	4 9260	4 9260	4 9260	4 9260
Japan	19 629	19 6290	19 6290	19 6290	19 6290	19 6290
Liechtenstein	0 006	0 0060	0 0060	0 0060	0 0060	0 0060
Luxembourg	0 078	0 0780	0 0780	0 0780	0 0780	0 0780
Malta	0 014	0 0140	0 0140	0 0140	0 0140	0 0140
Monaco	0 003	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030
Netherlands	1 695	1 6950	1 6950	1 6950	1 6950	1 6950
New Zealand	0 223	0 2230	0 2230	0 2230	0 2230	0 2230
Norway	0 685	0 6850	0 6850	0 6850	0 6850	0 6850
Portugal	0 474	0 4740	0 4740	0 4740	0 4740	0 4740
San Marino	0 003	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030
Slovenia	0 083	0 0830	0 0830	0 0830	0 0830	0 0830
Spain	2 520	2 5200	2 5200	2 5200	2 5200	2 5200
Sweden	1 001	1 0010	1 0010	1 0010	1 0010	1 0010
Switzerland	1 207	1 2070	1 2070	1 2070	1 2070	1 2070
Total B	50 375	50 3750	50 3750	50 3750	50 3750	50 3750
Transition to level B						
Bahamas	0 013	0 0117	0 0117	0 0130	0 0130	0 0130
Bahrain	0 030	0 0220	0 0220	0 0260	0 0260	0 0300
Hungary	0 127	0 0762	0 1016	0 1016	0 1270	0 1270
Total - transition to B	0 170	0 1099	0 1353	0 1406	0 1660	0 1700

Member State	Regular budget	1 January 2004	1 July 2004	1 January 2005	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Level C						
Brunei Darussalam	0.034	0.0315	0.0315	0.0315	0.0315	0.0315
Kuwait	0.163	0.1508	0.1508	0.1508	0.1508	0.1508
Qatar	0.064	0.0592	0.0592	0.0592	0.0592	0.0592
Singapore	0.391	0.3617	0.3617	0.3617	0.3617	0.3617
United Arab Emirates	0.237	0.2192	0.2192	0.2192	0.2192	0.2192
Total C	0.889	0.8223	0.8223	0.8223	0.8223	0.8223
Transition to D						
Republic of Korea (b)	1.808	1.5187	1.5187	1.8080	1.8080	1.4464
Level E						
Antigua and Barbuda	0.003	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018
Barbados	0.010	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060
Total E	0.013	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078
Transition to E						
Palau	0.001	0.0005	0.0005	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Level F						
Saudi Arabia	0.719	0.2876	0.2876	0.2876	0.2876	0.2876
Seychelles	0.002	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008
Total F	0.721	0.2884	0.2884	0.2884	0.2884	0.2884
Level G						
Argentina	0.964	0.2892	0.2892	0.2892	0.2892	0.2892
Oman	0.071	0.0213	0.0213	0.0213	0.0213	0.0213
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
Total G	1.036	0.3108	0.3108	0.3108	0.3108	0.3108
Transition to G						
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.133	0.0333	0.0333	0.0399	0.0399	0.0399
Level H*						
Bulgaria	0.017	0.0051	0.0051	0.0051	0.0051	0.0051
Czech Republic	0.184	0.0552	0.0552	0.0552	0.0552	0.0552
Latvia	0.015	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045
Lithuania	0.024	0.0072	0.0072	0.0072	0.0072	0.0072
Philippines	0.096	0.0288	0.0288	0.0288	0.0288	0.0288
Poland	0.464	0.1392	0.1392	0.1392	0.1392	0.1392
Romania	0.061	0.0183	0.0183	0.0183	0.0183	0.0183
Slovakia	0.051	0.0153	0.0153	0.0153	0.0153	0.0153
Total H*	0.912	0.2736	0.2736	0.2736	0.2736	0.2736
Level H						
Uruguay	0.048	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096

Member State	Regular budget	1 January 2004	1 July 2004	1 January 2005	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Level I						
Albania	0.005	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Algeria	0.076	0.0152	0.0152	0.0152	0.0152	0.0152
Armenia	0.002	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Azerbaijan	0.005	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Belarus	0.018	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036
Belize	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Bolivia	0.009	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.003	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Botswana	0.012	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024
Brazil	1.534	0.3068	0.3068	0.3068	0.3068	0.3068
Cameroon	0.008	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016
Chile	0.225	0.0450	0.0450	0.0450	0.0450	0.0450
Colombia	0.156	0.0312	0.0312	0.0312	0.0312	0.0312
Congo	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Costa Rica	0.039	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078
Côte d'Ivoire	0.010	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020
Croatia	0.038	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076
Cuba	0.043	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.010	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020
Dominica	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Dominican Republic	0.035	0.0070	0.0070	0.0070	0.0070	0.0070
Ecuador	0.019	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038
Egypt	0.120	0.0240	0.0240	0.0240	0.0240	0.0240
El Salvador	0.022	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044
Fiji	0.004	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008
Gabon	0.009	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018
Georgia	0.003	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Ghana	0.004	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008
Grenada	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Guatemala	0.030	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060
Guyana	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Honduras	0.005	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
India	0.424	0.0848	0.0848	0.0848	0.0848	0.0848
Indonesia	0.143	0.0286	0.0286	0.0286	0.0286	0.0286
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.158	0.0316	0.0316	0.0316	0.0316	0.0316
Iraq	0.016	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032
Jamaica	0.015	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030
Jordan	0.011	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022
Kazakhstan	0.025	0.0050	0.0050	0.0050	0.0050	0.0050
Kenya	0.009	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018
Kyrgyzstan	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Lebanon	0.044	0.0088	0.0088	0.0088	0.0088	0.0088
Malaysia	0.205	0.0410	0.0410	0.0410	0.0410	0.0410
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Mauritius	0.011	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022
Mexico	1.899	0.3798	0.3798	0.3798	0.3798	0.3798

Member State	Regular budget	1 January 2004	1 July 2004	1 January 2005	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Mongolia	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Morocco	0.047	0.0094	0.0094	0.0094	0.0094	0.0094
Namibia	0.006	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012
Nauru	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Nicaragua	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Nigeria	0.043	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086
Pakistan	0.056	0.0112	0.0112	0.0112	0.0112	0.0112
Panama	0.019	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038
Papua New Guinea	0.003	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Paraguay	0.012	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024
Peru	0.093	0.0186	0.0186	0.0186	0.0186	0.0186
Republic of Moldova	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Serbia and Montenegro	0.019	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038
South Africa	0.294	0.0588	0.0588	0.0588	0.0588	0.0588
Sri Lanka	0.017	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034
Suriname	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Swaziland	0.002	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Syrian Arab Republic	0.038	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076
Tajikistan	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Thailand	0.211	0.0422	0.0422	0.0422	0.0422	0.0422
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.006	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012
Timor Leste	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Tonga	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Trinidad and Tobago	0.027	0.0054	0.0054	0.0054	0.0054	0.0054
Tunisia	0.032	0.0064	0.0064	0.0064	0.0064	0.0064
Turkey	0.376	0.0752	0.0752	0.0752	0.0752	0.0752
Turkmenistan	0.005	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Ukraine	0.040	0.0080	0.0080	0.0080	0.0080	0.0080
Uzbekistan	0.014	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028
Venezuela	0.173	0.0346	0.0346	0.0346	0.0346	0.0346
Viet Nam	0.021	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014
Total I	6.984	1.3968	1.3968	1.3968	1.3968	1.3968
Level J						
Afghanistan	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Angola	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Bangladesh	0.010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Benin	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Bhutan	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Burkina Faso	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Burundi	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Cambodia	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Cape Verde	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Central African Republic	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001

Member State	Regular budget	1 January 2004	1 July 2004	1 January 2005	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Chad	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Comoros	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
Djibouti	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Equatorial Guinea	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Eritrea	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Ethiopia	0.004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Gambia	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Guinea	0.003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Haiti	0.003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
Kiribati	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Lesotho	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Liberia	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Madagascar	0.003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
Malawi	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Maldives	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Mali	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Mauritania	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Mozambique	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Myanmar	0.010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Nepal	0.004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Niger	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Rwanda	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Samoa	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Senegal	0.005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Somalia	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Sudan	0.008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008
Togo	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Tuvalu	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Uganda	0.006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
United Republic of Tanzania	0.006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Vanuatu	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Yemen	0.006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Zambia	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Total J	0.116	0.0116	0.0116	0.0116	0.0116	0.0116
GRAND TOTAL	100.000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000

a/ See A/58/11, paragraph 42.

b/ The Republic of Korea's proportion of its regular budget rate of assessment rises to 100 per cent in 2005, but reverts to 80 per cent in 2006.

Annex V

Effective rates of assessment for peacekeeping, 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2006, based on the regular budget scale of assessments recommended by the Committee on Contributions * (with the Republic of Korea in level D)

Member State	Regular budget	1 January 2004	1 July 2004	1 January 2005	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Level A						
China	2 070	2 5268	2 5254	2 5247	2 5233	2 5231
France	6 080	7 4218	7 4176	7 4156	7 4114	7 4107
Russian Federation	0 466	0 5688	0 5685	0 5684	0 5680	0 5680
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6 178	7 5414	7 5372	7 5351	7 5309	7 5302
United States of America	22 000	26 8552	26 8400	26 8328	26 8176	26 8152
Total A	36.794	44.9141	44.8887	44.8766	44.8512	44.8472
Level B						
Andorra	0 005	0 0050	0 0050	0 0050	0 0050	0 0050
Australia	1 606	1 6060	1 6060	1 6060	1 6060	1 6060
Austria	0 867	0 8670	0 8670	0 8670	0 8670	0 8670
Belgium	1 078	1 0780	1 0780	1 0780	1 0780	1 0780
Canada	2 837	2 8370	2 8370	2 8370	2 8370	2 8370
Cyprus	0 039	0 0390	0 0390	0 0390	0 0390	0 0390
Denmark	0 724	0 7240	0 7240	0 7240	0 7240	0 7240
Estonia	0 012	0 0120	0 0120	0 0120	0 0120	0 0120
Finland	0 535	0 5350	0 5350	0 5350	0 5350	0 5350
Germany	8 733	8 7330	8 7330	8 7330	8 7330	8 7330
Greece	0 534	0 5340	0 5340	0 5340	0 5340	0 5340
Iceland	0 034	0 0340	0 0340	0 0340	0 0340	0 0340
Ireland	0 353	0 3530	0 3530	0 3530	0 3530	0 3530
Israel	0 471	0 4710	0 4710	0 4710	0 4710	0 4710
Italy	4 926	4 9260	4 9260	4 9260	4 9260	4 9260
Japan	19 629	19 6290	19 6290	19 6290	19 6290	19 6290
Liechtenstein	0 006	0 0060	0 0060	0 0060	0 0060	0 0060
Luxembourg	0 078	0 0780	0 0780	0 0780	0 0780	0 0780
Malta	0 014	0 0140	0 0140	0 0140	0 0140	0 0140
Monaco	0 003	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030
Netherlands	1 695	1 6950	1 6950	1 6950	1 6950	1 6950
New Zealand	0 223	0 2230	0 2230	0 2230	0 2230	0 2230
Norway	0 685	0 6850	0 6850	0 6850	0 6850	0 6850
Portugal	0 474	0 4740	0 4740	0 4740	0 4740	0 4740
San Marino	0 003	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030	0 0030
Slovenia	0 083	0 0830	0 0830	0 0830	0 0830	0 0830
Spain	2 520	2 5200	2 5200	2 5200	2 5200	2 5200
Sweden	1 001	1 0010	1 0010	1 0010	1 0010	1 0010
Switzerland	1 207	1 2070	1 2070	1 2070	1 2070	1 2070
Total B	50.375	50.3750	50.3750	50.3750	50.3750	50.3750
Transition to level B						
Bahamas	0 013	0 0117	0 0117	0 0130	0 0130	0 0130
Bahrain	0 030	0 0220	0 0220	0 0260	0 0260	0 0300
Hungary	0 127	0 0762	0 1016	0 1016	0 1270	0 1270
Total - transition to B	0.170	0.1099	0.1353	0.1406	0.1660	0.1700

Member State	Regular budget	1 January 2004	1 July 2004	1 January 2005	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Level C						
Brunei Darussalam	0.034	0.0315	0.0315	0.0315	0.0315	0.0315
Kuwait	0.163	0.1508	0.1508	0.1508	0.1508	0.1508
Qatar	0.064	0.0592	0.0592	0.0592	0.0592	0.0592
Singapore	0.391	0.3617	0.3617	0.3617	0.3617	0.3617
United Arab Emirates	0.237	0.2192	0.2192	0.2192	0.2192	0.2192
Total C	0.889	0.8223	0.8223	0.8223	0.8223	0.8223
Level D						
Republic of Korea b/	1.808	1.4464	1.4464	1.4464	1.4464	1.4464
Level E						
Antigua and Barbuda	0.003	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018
Barbados	0.010	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060
Total E	0.013	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078
Transition to E						
Palau	0.001	0.0005	0.0005	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Level F						
Saudi Arabia	0.719	0.2876	0.2876	0.2876	0.2876	0.2876
Seychelles	0.002	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008
Total F	0.721	0.2884	0.2884	0.2884	0.2884	0.2884
Level G						
Argentina	0.964	0.2892	0.2892	0.2892	0.2892	0.2892
Oman	0.071	0.0213	0.0213	0.0213	0.0213	0.0213
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
Total G	1.036	0.3108	0.3108	0.3108	0.3108	0.3108
Transition to G						
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.133	0.0333	0.0333	0.0399	0.0399	0.0399
Level H*						
Bulgaria	0.017	0.0051	0.0051	0.0051	0.0051	0.0051
Czech Republic	0.184	0.0552	0.0552	0.0552	0.0552	0.0552
Latvia	0.015	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045
Lithuania	0.024	0.0072	0.0072	0.0072	0.0072	0.0072
Philippines	0.096	0.0288	0.0288	0.0288	0.0288	0.0288
Poland	0.464	0.1392	0.1392	0.1392	0.1392	0.1392
Romania	0.061	0.0183	0.0183	0.0183	0.0183	0.0183
Slovakia	0.051	0.0153	0.0153	0.0153	0.0153	0.0153
Total H*	0.912	0.2736	0.2736	0.2736	0.2736	0.2736
Level H						
Uruguay	0.048	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096

Member State	Regular budget	1 January 2004	1 July 2004	1 January 2005	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Level I						
Albania	0.005	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Algeria	0.076	0.0152	0.0152	0.0152	0.0152	0.0152
Armenia	0.002	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Azerbaijan	0.005	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Belarus	0.018	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036
Belize	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Bolivia	0.009	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.003	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Botswana	0.012	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024
Brazil	1.534	0.3068	0.3068	0.3068	0.3068	0.3068
Cameroon	0.008	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016	0.0016
Chile	0.225	0.0450	0.0450	0.0450	0.0450	0.0450
Colombia	0.156	0.0312	0.0312	0.0312	0.0312	0.0312
Congo	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Costa Rica	0.039	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078	0.0078
Côte d'Ivoire	0.010	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020
Croatia	0.038	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076
Cuba	0.043	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.010	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020
Dominica	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Dominican Republic	0.035	0.0070	0.0070	0.0070	0.0070	0.0070
Ecuador	0.019	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038
Egypt	0.120	0.0240	0.0240	0.0240	0.0240	0.0240
El Salvador	0.022	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044
Fiji	0.004	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008
Gabon	0.009	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018
Georgia	0.003	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Ghana	0.004	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008
Grenada	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Guatemala	0.030	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060	0.0060
Guyana	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Honduras	0.005	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
India	0.424	0.0848	0.0848	0.0848	0.0848	0.0848
Indonesia	0.143	0.0286	0.0286	0.0286	0.0286	0.0286
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.158	0.0316	0.0316	0.0316	0.0316	0.0316
Iraq	0.016	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032
Jamaica	0.015	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030
Jordan	0.011	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022
Kazakhstan	0.025	0.0050	0.0050	0.0050	0.0050	0.0050
Kenya	0.009	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018
Kyrgyzstan	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Lebanon	0.044	0.0088	0.0088	0.0088	0.0088	0.0088
Malaysia	0.205	0.0410	0.0410	0.0410	0.0410	0.0410
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Mauritius	0.011	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022
Mexico	1.899	0.3798	0.3798	0.3798	0.3798	0.3798
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002

Member State	Regular budget	1 January 2004	1 July 2004	1 January 2005	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Mongolia	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Morocco	0.047	0.0094	0.0094	0.0094	0.0094	0.0094
Namibia	0.006	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012
Nauru	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Nicaragua	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Nigeria	0.043	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086	0.0086
Pakistan	0.056	0.0112	0.0112	0.0112	0.0112	0.0112
Panama	0.019	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038
Papua New Guinea	0.003	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Paraguay	0.012	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024
Peru	0.093	0.0186	0.0186	0.0186	0.0186	0.0186
Republic of Moldova	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Serbia and Montenegro	0.019	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038
South Africa	0.294	0.0588	0.0588	0.0588	0.0588	0.0588
Sri Lanka	0.017	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034
Suriname	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Swaziland	0.002	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Syrian Arab Republic	0.038	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076	0.0076
Tajikistan	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Thailand	0.211	0.0422	0.0422	0.0422	0.0422	0.0422
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.006	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012
Timor-Leste	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Tonga	0.001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Trinidad and Tobago	0.027	0.0054	0.0054	0.0054	0.0054	0.0054
Tunisia	0.032	0.0064	0.0064	0.0064	0.0064	0.0064
Turkey	0.376	0.0752	0.0752	0.0752	0.0752	0.0752
Turkmenistan	0.005	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Ukraine	0.040	0.0080	0.0080	0.0080	0.0080	0.0080
Uzbekistan	0.014	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028
Venezuela	0.173	0.0346	0.0346	0.0346	0.0346	0.0346
Viet Nam	0.021	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014
Total I	6.984	1.3968	1.3968	1.3968	1.3968	1.3968
Level J						
Afghanistan	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Angola	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Bangladesh	0.010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Benin	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Bhutan	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Burkina Faso	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Burundi	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Cambodia	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Cape Verde	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Central African Republic	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Chad	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Comoros	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003

Member State	Regular budget	1 January 2004	1 July 2004	1 January 2005	1 July 2005	1 January 2006
Djibouti	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Equatorial Guinea	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Eritrea	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Ethiopia	0.004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Gambia	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Guinea	0.003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
Guinea Bissau	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Haiti	0.003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
Kiribati	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Lesotho	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Liberia	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Madagascar	0.003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
Malawi	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Maldives	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Mali	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Mauritania	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Mozambique	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Myanmar	0.010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010	0.0010
Nepal	0.004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004
Niger	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Rwanda	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Samoa	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Senegal	0.005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Somalia	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Sudan	0.008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008
Togo	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Tuvalu	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Uganda	0.006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
United Republic of Tanzania	0.006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Vanuatu	0.001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Yemen	0.006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006
Zambia	0.002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Total J	0.116	0.0116	0.0116	0.0116	0.0116	0.0116
GRAND TOTAL	100.000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000

a/ See A/58/11, paragraph 42.

b/ Reflects the request from the Republic of Korea that it should be assigned to the lowest level of contribution for peacekeeping operations for which it is eligible.

**General Assembly**

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Fifty-eighth session

Item 96 (b) of the preliminary list*

Environment and sustainable development

**Implementation of the United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification in those Countries
Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification,
particularly in Africa**

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 57/259, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD).

Pursuant to Article 1 of the Convention, the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development called for strengthening the prevention and/or reduction of land degradation, rehabilitation of partly degraded land and reclamation of desertified land, in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, in order to maintain and restore land and to address poverty resulting from land degradation. The Summit identified the Convention as one of the tools for poverty eradication.

Furthermore, pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention, the Plan of Implementation calls for strengthening the preparation and implementation of national action programmes and subregional and regional action programmes as the central element of the strategy to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

At its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly welcomed the decision taken by the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that the Facility shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the Convention and invited the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session to consider making the Facility a financial mechanism of the Convention. The Conference of the Parties will meet in Havana, Cuba, from 25 August to 5 September 2003.

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.



The General Assembly had also invited the Council of the Facility to finalize and adopt the operational programme on land degradation. The Council adopted that programme on 18 May 2003 at its May 2003 session.

Concerning the review of the implementation of the Convention, the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) was held in Rome from 11 to 22 November 2002 to assist the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) in this regard in the light of experience gained at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, and to facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties, pursuant to article 26 of the Convention, in order to draw conclusions and to propose to the Conference concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention. The second session of the Committee will take place during the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties from 26 to 29 August 2003.

The General Assembly also noted with appreciation the increased number of developing countries that are parties to the Convention and that have adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes, and urged the affected parties that have not yet done so to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes, with a view to finalizing them as soon as possible. In this regard, the General Assembly also invited affected developing countries to place the implementation of their action programmes to combat desertification high among their priorities in their dialogue with their development partners.

The General Assembly noted the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encouraged continuing cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 57/259 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

2. It also expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of Italy for the organization of the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Rome, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, from 11 to 22 November 2002. The General Assembly also welcomed the outcomes of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, held in Beijing from 16 to 18 October 2002, particularly the decision on making land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, a new focal area of the Facility and recognized the strong commitment of the international community, to make the Facility available as a financial mechanism of the Convention. In this regard the General Assembly encouraged the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to take the appropriate decision to that effect at its next ordinary session in 2003.

II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/259

A. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

3. By its decision 1/COP.5 the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided to establish the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and defined its terms of reference as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention. Accordingly, the Convention secretariat has undertaken various steps to facilitate the reporting process in preparation for the first session of the Committee.

4. The first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention was held in Rome from 11 to 22 November 2002 to assist the Conference in reviewing the implementation of the Convention in the light of experience gained at the national, subregional, regional and international levels and to facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the parties, pursuant to article 26 of the Convention, in order to draw conclusions and to propose to the Conference concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the Convention.

5. By the same decision 1/COP.5, the Conference further decided that the review should focus on specific thematic issues identified by parties. Accordingly, the Conference identified seven key thematic topics for review, up to and including the seventh session of the Conference. These topics were reflected in the deliberations of the Committee.

6. In this regard, reports were submitted to the secretariat by 124 affected country parties (47 from Africa, 32 from Asia, 28 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 17 from northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern European and other affected country parties), as well as 11 relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, eight intergovernmental organizations and 17 developed country parties.

7. Affected country parties further noted that thematic case studies contributed to experience sharing and reported on steps taken as required. They usefully demonstrated the relationship between combating desertification and eradicating poverty. In many cases, progress was shown to have been achieved on a wide front. The next cycle of information before the Committee could focus more on analysis of accomplishment, measurement of impact achieved and goals reached, while the recommendations by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) on benchmarks and indicators should be applied in this work for affected developing country parties.

8. Affected country parties also noted that national action programmes (NAP) express a country's commitment to the Convention and underlined that while such programmes are in various stages of advancement or finalization — often with minimal external support — predictable financial resources, both domestic and international, for enabling activities under the Convention are clearly required to foster implementation, support policy formulation for sustainable land use, capacity-building, technical assistance in specific areas and for pre-feasibility studies.

9. In this regard affected country parties stressed that reports by developed country parties on their contributions to the UNCCD process should be more precise and complete so as to ensure that the reporting process before the Committee would be more balanced in reflecting the obligations of all parties.

10. Developed country parties recognized the Convention's global importance for sustainable development and poverty eradication and underlined the importance of promoting incentives for ownership, land tenure, access and use of productive natural resources to create an enabling framework for sustainable and equitable land use.

11. Developed country parties also acknowledged the merits of a political dialogue to foster implementation of the Convention and urged Governments to clarify the roles and influence of the national coordinating bodies (NCBs) and the national focal points (NFPs) within the national planning process. They also requested that more be done to incorporate the results of research and relevant projects into action programme implementation and impact monitoring.

12. The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) noted that not all of its recommendations had been fully taken into account and invited parties to better integrate CST activities into the national reports and the national action programmes and better involve members of the scientific community in these processes. Accordingly, it requested that at future CRIC sessions, each topic should contain elements to demonstrate the linkages between the state of knowledge on the particular topic, the extent and scale of impacts, the opportunities for mitigation and the policy implications, specifically including the implications for socio-economic and cultural policies.

13. United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) submitted reports on relevant activities and recalled their traditional role in supporting policy formulation for sustainable development, technical assistance, capacity-building, information and data exchange. The degree of UNCCD mainstreaming in their procedures and programmes varies, and there appears to be a growing interest in synergy related issues.

14. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contributed actively to the CRIC assessment. They noted that lack of funding had been the major barrier to implementation of the Convention and underlined the need for NGOs to be involved

in the mainstreaming and synergy process at all levels in order to ensure that synergies took effect at the field level. NGOs also requested the development of not only biophysical but also socio-economic benchmarks and indicators.

15. The second session of the Committee, will take place during the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties from 26 to 29 August 2003.

B. The World Summit on Sustainable Development

16. In response to requests received from the respective task managers, the secretariat of the Convention contributed to the Secretary-General's cluster report on land and agriculture issues covering chapters 10, 12 and 14 of Agenda 21, to the Secretary-General's report on institutional proceedings in the context of Agenda 21, and to other relevant Secretary-General's reports to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and its preparatory Committee.

17. Furthermore, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs and the secretariat of the Convention established as a joint initiative an independent high-level body, the Panel of Eminent Personalities, to consider the poverty-environment nexus in the context of the implementation of the Convention, in April 2001. The Panel met two times and concluded its report at its second meeting, held in Agadez, Niger at the end of February 2002.

18. The report of the Panel, entitled "UNCCD: a Useful Tool for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation", highlighted the complex relationship between land degradation and poverty, and suggests that the implementation of the Convention can have a significant positive impact in rural poverty reduction and environmental degradation, forced migration, and prevention of conflicts over scarce resources. It calls the international community to acknowledge the Convention as a poverty reduction tool and foster community-based rural area development programmes. The report of the Panel was submitted for consideration of the WSSD Preparatory Committee by the Government of Niger, and further publicized by the members of the Panel during the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee and the Summit itself.

19. The Panel also made an appeal, the Agadez Call, urging the international community to support sustained cooperation with developing countries that are affected by desertification, especially in Africa. The appeal urged developed countries to pay particular attention to the fight against desertification by taking appropriate measures to strengthen the implementation of the Convention as a primary tool for cooperation with developing affected countries.

20. In paragraph 7 (l) of the Plan of Implementation adopted by the Summit, the Convention is acknowledged as one of the tools for poverty eradication. In this regard, the Plan of Implementation underlined the need for action at all levels to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and floods through such measures as improved use of climate and weather information and forecasts, early warning systems, land and natural resource management, agricultural practices and ecosystem conservation.

21. Furthermore, paragraph 41 of the Plan of Implementation states the need for action at all levels to "Strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious

Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to address causes of desertification and land degradation in order to maintain and restore land, and to address poverty resulting from land degradation".

22. Pursuant to article 1 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development calls for strengthening the prevention and/or reduction of land degradation, rehabilitation of partly degraded land and reclamation of desertified land, in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, in order to maintain and restore land and to address poverty resulting from land degradation.

C. The Global Environment Facility in the process of the Convention

23. General Assembly resolution 57/259 expressed its satisfaction with regard to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Second Global Environment Facility Assembly as they related to UNCCD implementation. It recognized the strong commitment of the international community demonstrated at the two gatherings to make the Facility available as a financial mechanism of the Convention.

24. The resolution also invited the Council of the Facility, due to meet in Washington, D.C., from 14 to 16 May 2003, to finalize and adopt the operational programme for land degradation, particularly desertification and deforestation. It further welcomed the decision taken by the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility that the Facility would be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and invited the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session, in response to the call of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the decision of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to consider making the Facility a financial mechanism of the Convention.

25. The Global Environment Facility Council met in Washington, D.C., from 14 to 16 May 2003 and approved the Operational Programme on Sustainable Land Management as a framework to operationalize the land degradation focal area. The Council recognized that in the framework of capacity-building projects to be funded under the Operational Programme, the elaboration of national action programmes, subregional action programmes, regional action programmes and national reports were considered as components.

26. Regarding the call made by the World Summit on Sustainable development to make the Facility a financial mechanism of the Convention, it is expected that the Conference of the Parties due to take place in Havana, Cuba, from 25 August to 5 September 2003, will take a decision in this regard.

27. Additional funding from the Facility is expected to add crucial momentum to the implementation process of the Convention that has been delayed essentially due to lack of predictable and substantial financial resources.

D. Action programmes

28. The General Assembly noted with appreciation the increased number of developing countries that have adopted their national, subregional and regional

action programmes, and urged the affected parties that have not yet done so to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes, with a view to finalizing them as soon as possible.

29. In this regard, the General Assembly also invited affected developing countries to place the implementation of their action programmes to combat desertification high among their priorities in their dialogue with their development partners.

30. As at June 2003, 66 affected countries have finalized the elaboration of their national action programmes to combat desertification (NAPs). In most cases these programmes have been adopted by the respective Governments. At the subregional and regional levels, seven subregional action programmes and four regional action programmes have been finalized.

31. Through the preparation and finalization of action programmes, the implementation of the Convention has been intensified in affected countries of all regions. The main emphasis continues to be on supporting partnership arrangements for fostering the implementation of these programmes, and for establishing linkages between the action programmes and other sustainable national strategies.

E. Synergies with other relevant conventions and organizations

32. The General Assembly noted the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encouraged further cooperation to promote complementarities among the three Conventions while respecting their independent legal status.

33. The Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification has through various decisions called for closer collaboration among the Rio Conventions and other relevant international organizations and conventions. At its fifth session, the Conference expressed its support for the integration of approaches between the Conventions on climate change, biological diversity and desertification. The fifth session of the Conference also requested the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to include in its programme of work consideration of land and soil degradation and its linkages to other environmental conventions. In addition, the session requested the Committee on Science and Technology to enhance cooperation with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and to report to the sixth session of the Conference of Parties on that cooperation. The fifth session also encouraged relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies to promote synergies in their mobilization of resources in support of the objectives of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

34. In accordance with decision V/23 of the fifth session of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on the Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-humid Lands was established by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice jointly with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The AHTEG meeting was convened twice in Montreal, Canada, from 18 to 22 March and from 23 to 27 September 2002 where it addressed, *inter alia*, the status and trends of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, including indicators of the status and trends of biodiversity, monitoring and early warning systems, in a wide range of natural habitats, as well as the processes affecting biodiversity, including the importance of addressing the underlying causes of processes affecting biodiversity.

35. The consideration of capacity development and the need of some parties for assistance in seeking resources to develop proposals were discussed at length. The Expert Group also welcomed the "Operational guidelines for expedited funding of national self assessments of capacity-building needs", spearheaded by the Global Environment Facility, which aims at assisting the capacity-building of developing countries.

36. Harmonizing sectoral policies and instruments to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands were also considered, including, *inter alia*, by taking advantage of the existing national action programmes under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as, as appropriate, other existing and relevant sectoral plans and policies. It was noted that many action programmes in various fields relating to biological diversity have been designed and implemented by the country parties.

37. The results of the work of the Expert Group were presented to the eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in March 2003. The secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification was closely involved in the work of this Expert Group.

38. The UNCCD secretariat also participated in the first and second meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Helsinki, Finland, January 2002, and Montreal, Canada, September 2002), as well as in the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (The Hague, the Netherlands, April 2002).

39. Regarding collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and pursuant to relevant decisions of their respective governing bodies, the secretariats of both Conventions, through a series of consultative meetings, have also identified a number of areas where collaboration can be enhanced. Among these, the secretariats have identified methodological issues such as adaptation strategies in countries with arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas; land use, land-use change and forestry issues; information systems; national profiles and national action programmes to combat desertification and issues relating to national communications and national reports, including guidelines, assessments and reviews.

40. The UNCCD secretariat participated in the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Marrakesh, Morocco, October/November 2001), as well as the sixteenth session of the Subsidiary Body for the Scientific and Technological Advice (Bonn, Germany, June 2002).

41. Furthermore, the Framework Convention on Climate Change of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, at its fourteenth session, endorsed the

formation of a Joint Liaison Group (JLG) between the secretariats of the Framework Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity. It requested the secretariat of the Framework Convention to invite the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat to participate in this Group in order to enhance coordination between the three Conventions, and to explore options for further cooperation, including the possibility of a joint work plan and/or a workshop. In response to this invitation, the UNCCD Executive Secretary joined the Joint Liaison Group.

42. As already reported to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the first meeting and second meetings of the Joint Liaison Group took place respectively in Washington, D.C., on 6 December 2001 and New York, on 30 January 2002. The participants to the first meeting included the executive secretaries of the three Conventions, officers of the subsidiary bodies and members of the secretariats. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information from recent meetings of the three Conventions, to share information on plans for the forthcoming year and to explore opportunities to enhance cohesion between the three secretariats and their respective subsidiary bodies.

43. The purpose of the second meeting was to exchange information on the work of the subsidiary bodies, to consider a draft joint calendar and list of priority events, and to review progress in the preparations for the joint workshop on synergy approaches. The chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the three Conventions reported on activities, conclusions and decisions relevant to the Joint Liaison Group. The meeting called for closer collaboration among the subsidiary bodies of the Conventions, with a view to enhancing synergies, particularly at the country level. The meeting also agreed to proceed with identifying resources to support the joint workshop.

44. The third meeting of the Joint Liaison Group took place in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 16 April 2002, in the sidelines of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The meeting agreed to a joint calendar of events relevant to the three Conventions, which was to be published on the web sites of the respective Conventions. The calendar would include links providing easy access to the complete calendars of activities under the three Conventions. In addition, an internal tool to facilitate the participation of members of each secretariat in key events organized by the other secretariats has been developed.

45. The meeting also agreed that a joint exhibition by the secretariats of the three Conventions would be held during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to display information on achievements since the Earth Summit in 1992 and to provide joint programmatic and organizational information on the three Conventions. In this connection, the UNCCD secretariat also facilitated a side event at the Johannesburg Summit on watershed management and reforestation to combat desertification in drylands, jointly organized by the Governments of Niger and Italy, at which the impact of large-scale reforestation schemes on carbon sequestration and conservation of biodiversity in an integrated rural development project was preliminarily assessed.

46. Regarding collaboration with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the secretariats have agreed that there was a convergence of interests and objectives between the Conventions on desertification and on migratory species and that they could enter into collaborative ventures for the

benefit of their respective parties. The two secretariats have identified fields for possible cooperation and critical sites where joint activities could be developed.

47. Consultative meetings with the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands have focused on implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1998 and identification of key areas for synergy development.

48. As far as coordination of programmes of work between the two Conventions was concerned, it was decided that each secretariat would encourage its respective parties and national focal points to hold joint consultative meetings as a part of their reporting processes. In addition, it was agreed that the two secretariats would also make arrangements for holding annual consultative meetings.

49. At its sixteenth session, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice, noting potential synergies with the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, encouraged the Joint Liaison Group to invite the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to share information and to participate in the meetings of the Group, as appropriate.

F. Action by States

50. As of July 2003 instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession had been deposited by the following 186 States and one regional economic integration organization: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Republic of the Congo, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the European Community.

III. Action requested from the General Assembly

51. In paragraph 18 of its resolution 57/259, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of that resolution. The present report has been produced in response to that request.

52. The General Assembly may wish to take note of the outcomes of the Council and Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) regarding the designation of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as an additional focal area of the Facility, the designation of the Facility as a financial mechanism to the Convention and the adoption of its operational programme.

53. Likewise, the Assembly may wish to take note of the conclusions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) relevant to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and reaffirm the important role of the Convention as a prime tool to combat poverty. Since poverty is widespread in rural dry lands of developing countries, the Assembly may echo that role and identify the Convention as one of the means to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as they relate to poverty eradication and hunger elimination.

54. In accordance with the institutional arrangements between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the United Nations, the General Assembly may also wish to take action for the required provisions to be made in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2004-2005 for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the seventh ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and meetings of its subsidiary bodies.

55. The General Assembly may also wish to reiterate its appeal for the funding of the Convention, particularly regarding contributions to the core budget, which are due to be paid promptly every 1 January.



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**Social development, including questions relating
to the world social situation and to youth, ageing,
disabled persons and the family**

Cooperatives in social development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 56/114 of 19 December 2001, entitled "Cooperatives in social development", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of that resolution.

The report comprises an introduction and two sections. Section II reports on the progress achieved in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/114, with particular reference to activities undertaken to promote a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives and the contribution of cooperatives to, inter alia, the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment, and the enhancement of social integration.

Section III presents some concluding observations together with a summary of proposals to promote the development of cooperatives and a supportive environment for that development.

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.



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I. Introduction

1. The present report responds to General Assembly resolution 56/114 of 19 December 2001, entitled "Cooperatives in social development", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of that resolution to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. In the same resolution, the Assembly drew the attention of Member States to the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives (A/56/73-E/2001/68, annex), to be considered by them in developing or revising their national policies on cooperatives.

2. A questionnaire was sent to all Member States seeking information on progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/114. This report is based on the replies received from 27 governmental agencies.¹ A shorter version of the questionnaire was transmitted to relevant international organizations, specialized agencies and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), to which eight responses were received.²

II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/114

A. Member States

1. Poverty eradication, employment-creation and social integration

3. In general, Governments reported their continuing support for the development of cooperatives and their recognition of the role of cooperatives in, and their contribution to, the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment, and the enhancement of social integration. The experience of selected Member States is summarized below.

4. In Cambodia, a number of federal departments have developed cooperative initiatives to further their departmental objectives, and these have included providing development funds to pilot-test the use of the worker cooperative model for job creation. The cooperative model is being considered by the Government for the provision of health care and home-care services.

5. In Canada, the five-year Cooperative Development Initiative seeks to enhance the capacity of the cooperative sector to help people start cooperatives, and to research and test innovative applications of the cooperative model. The priorities for this new programme include assistance for marginalized individuals and communities. The Voluntary Sector Initiative, a horizontal federal strategy, is supporting a two-year cooperative project to develop a policy framework for the use of the cooperative model in low-income communities in alleviating poverty. Through the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Programme, cooperative organizations have received funding for renewal of the agriculture cooperative sector, including leadership development, awareness-raising, and a study of capitalization challenges. The federal Government provides funding of approximately C\$ 200 million per year for 60,000 cooperative housing units built through federal or federal-provincial social housing programmes.

6. The Government of Chile reports that it seeks to develop credit unions, and housing and educational cooperatives, as well as agricultural cooperatives, especially in the dairy sector. There is a modernization plan to enhance the management and control of cooperatives, to restructure the Department of Cooperatives, and to seek new sources of funding and technical support to secure the viability and visibility of the cooperative sector.
7. In China, cooperative organizations at all levels directly participated in the Government's poverty reduction activities which have provided technical training and helped poor people to create specialized cooperatives. In addition, local governments provide a favourable policy environment for the development of cooperatives among peasants, the urban poor and the unemployed through preferential tax and credit terms to cooperatives.
8. In Colombia, the Government has conducted studies on the impact of cooperative activities on poverty eradication, employment-generation and the enhancement of social integration. Together with the help of international partners, the Government has encouraged the establishment and development of cooperatives, especially among people belonging to vulnerable groups and in specific sectors of the economy.
9. In Cyprus, the cooperative movement promotes social development, the eradication of poverty and social integration through the creation of new jobs and the provision of loans at favourable terms to its members for housing, education, agriculture, health care, consumer goods and small business development.
10. The Ministry of Labour of Finland has identified support to cooperatives as an important instrument in employment-generation. In 2001, €3.1 million were granted as aid for independent initiatives to 220 communities, the majority of which were cooperative associations for the unemployed. In its 2002 budget, the Government allocated €3.3 million for the start-up support of new cooperatives. One prerequisite for obtaining this support is that at least 75 per cent of the employees of any newly established cooperative must have been previously unemployed.
11. In 2002, the Government of Kyrgyzstan approved a State programme that paid special attention to credit unions organized by the unemployed and the poor to deal with the small credits received from the State.
12. In Mali, the Government offers resources to cooperatives in order to promote full and productive employment and social integration in the cooperative sector. In Mauritius, credit unions are mounting micro credit projects for vulnerable groups in accordance with government policies for the alleviation of poverty.
13. The Government of Mongolia coordinates the implementation of several ongoing national programmes for the support and development of cooperatives, especially in rural areas. Within the framework of the National Poverty Alleviation Programme, support has been provided to poor and vulnerable groups for establishing cooperatives on a voluntary basis. The Government provides tax exemptions to those cooperatives that have created employment by establishing new businesses.
14. A national programme has been launched in Panama to use the cooperative model to promote self-management and sustainable development, benefit people with very low incomes, improve living conditions, and decrease unemployment and

migration. A government priority is to promote cooperatives among indigenous groups.

15. In Portugal, a new branch for social welfare cooperatives has been established within the Portuguese cooperative sector. The Cooperative Development Programme which was created in 1999 has become very active in supporting the creation of new cooperatives and the strengthening of existing ones, particularly in terms of employment-generation, investment, training and development studies.

16. The Russian Federation, collaborating with the European Union (EU) on cooperative development, has launched two large projects in the Volga region and in Siberia. In Spain, the plan of action for 2002 promoted generation of employment through national cooperatives.

17. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis has successfully promoted and registered cooperatives for farmers and bee-keepers in which women are participating as members. In Ukraine, a State programme for the social development of villages was adopted in 2002 in which due consideration is given to the role and contribution of cooperatives. The Government undertakes necessary measures to enable women to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives.

18. Besides their intervention at the national level, some Governments also reported on their assistance to the development of cooperatives in other countries. For example, the Government of Germany contributes to the eradication of poverty in developing countries through 26 projects that support informal and half-formal credit unions and agricultural cooperatives. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reports that the programmes of the Department of International Development include support for the establishment and development of cooperatives in a number of countries, including funding for the Rural Support Programmes in Pakistan, which promote the development and strengthening of community associations as vehicles for development.

2. Legislation, supportive environment and the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives

19. Many Governments keep under review the legal and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives and consider the United Nations guidelines when developing or revising their national policies on cooperatives. A selection of recent developments in Member States is summarized below.

20. In Botswana, in 2002, the 1989 Cooperatives Societies Act was revised and merged with the Agricultural Management Association Act. The Botswana Cooperative Association was fully involved in the review of cooperative legislation and the development of the national cooperative policy.

21. The Government of Cambodia issued a decree in July 2001 providing for the establishment and development of agricultural cooperatives. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/114, the Government has worked to clarify and strengthen the rights and obligations of the elected officials and members of cooperatives, and of the supervisory commission.

22. In Canada, the Canada Cooperatives Act of 1999 was amended in 2001 to better enable cooperatives to compete on a level playing field with other types of

corporations. Since 1999, a majority of provinces in Canada have reviewed their legislation relating to cooperatives in light of the revisions at the federal level. The Government of Canada has a designated cabinet minister responsible for cooperatives, and for relations between the Government and cooperative sector organizations. The Minister's Advisory Committee on Cooperatives provides the Minister with cooperative sector views and advice on policy and programmes.

23. The Government of Chile recently adopted new and more specific regulations for cooperatives which were developed in collaboration with cooperative organizations. These regulations emphasize the necessity of generating favourable conditions, expanding the productive base and capacity for business growth, and creating new projects, *inter alia*, in areas such as microfinance, savings and credit.

24. In China, the ninth five-year plan adopted by the National People's Congress contains regulations for cooperatives. When the Law on Agriculture was revised in 2002, it included additional items on cooperatives. Colombia has redesigned its strategies for cooperative development, and several legal and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives have been revised. In addition, the national Congress has considered important parliamentary and governmental initiatives on the activities of cooperatives.

25. The Government of Cyprus reports that, since 1999, there have been several revisions to legislation which enables cooperatives to operate more effectively and provide better protection of the interests of their members. The Department of Cooperative Development guides and advises cooperatives, safeguarding the interests of their members and the communities they serve. To support the development of cooperatives, the Government does not tax the profits generated from transactions among their members.

26. The Government of Kuwait is collaborating with workers' unions to study ways to create new cooperatives, spread awareness of cooperatives, and increase production. The Government has also established assistance centres to help enable cooperatives to play a greater role in the national economy. Cooperatives are exempted from paying customs taxes.

27. The Government of Mali issued a political strategy document for the promotion of cooperatives in 2000, and adopted a new law regulating cooperatives in 2001. The strategy document on cooperatives envisages the creation of several funds, including a technical support fund, to aid the cooperatives sector. The new law facilitates the creation of cooperatives and offers a favourable framework for their growth and sustainability. The Government has organized an association of cooperatives to improve awareness and build a strong network among members and elected leadership. It is exploring the possibility of exempting cooperatives from fiscal and customs taxes.

28. The Government of Malta reports that it has incorporated the recommendations of General Assembly resolution 56/114 in new cooperative legislation adopted in 2002. Under the new legislation, the Cooperatives Board will supervise and monitor the cooperative movement and the economic context in which it operates.

29. In Mauritius, the Cooperatives Act is being revised to provide greater autonomy and freedom to cooperatives, while removing excessive bureaucratic and government controls and needless political interference.

30. The Government of Mongolia amended the Law on Cooperatives in 2002 in order to create a legal environment for the development of credit and saving cooperatives, and a provision on cooperative auditing has been developed for inclusion in the law on auditing. The Standing Committees of the Parliament have discussed a draft law that will provide tax exemptions for cooperatives and members of cooperatives.

31. In Panama, the Panama Cooperative Institute (IPACOOOP) is in charge of the formulation, direction, planning and execution of cooperatives policies in the country. IPACOOOP undertakes activities to provide cooperatives with a legal framework that enables them to operate efficiently. The Government has managed to create a supportive environment that includes an appropriate legal framework, technical assistance, education of members, and training of cooperative leaders and managers. Recently, the Government adopted measures regarding the financial consolidation of the cooperative movement.

32. The Government of the Philippines reports that the United Nations guidelines have assisted the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) in its Amendatory Bills to the CDA Charter in formulating integrated and comprehensive plans and programmes to support a development of cooperatives that is consistent with national policy.

33. The Government of Portugal reports that much of the development and review of policies on cooperatives has been undertaken in the spirit of the guidelines set out in General Assembly resolution 54/123 of 17 December 1999. The cooperative sector is specifically enshrined in the Portuguese Constitution as one of the three sectors, together with the public and private sectors, representing the means of production in the country.

34. In Qatar, the latest law on cooperative activities was adopted in 2000, and since then several administrative resolutions have been issued to execute the law. The new provisions in the law include a number of adjustments suggested by cooperatives.

35. In the Russian Federation, a new law on credit unions was adopted in 2001, while a law on consumer cooperation was adopted in 2002. With the adoption of the law on consumer cooperatives, a union of consumer cooperatives was organized to coordinate the activities of its members, and to represent their interests at local, regional and national levels. The federal law on agricultural cooperation is under revision in order to provide more rights to members at the grass-roots level. Under current legislation, certain categories of cooperatives enjoy favourable taxation treatment. The Government encourages and facilitates the establishment and development of cooperatives through monitoring, review and revision of laws and judicial administrative practices that impact on the cooperative movement, provision of credits, and training of cooperative management.

36. In Spain, the law adopted in 1999 provided cooperatives with more autonomy, self-regulation and flexibility. The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis intends to be guided by the General Assembly resolutions when reviewing the set of policies on development of cooperatives that was adopted in 1995. The Department of Cooperatives is discussing with cooperative leadership possible amendments to certain sections of the Cooperative Act.

37. The Government of Turkey reports that a new legal arrangement is to be adopted next year to constitute cooperatives and producer associations within the framework of the Urgent Action Plan. There have been attempts of the Government to support agricultural cooperatives technically, financially and organizationally. They have been rendered autonomous according to the cooperative principles. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce are responsible for the legal framework for development of cooperatives, and they also define the establishment, and monitor the activities, of cooperatives.

38. The Government of Ukraine reports that national policy aimed at creating a supportive environment for the cooperative development is based on the recommendations of the United Nations, and that General Assembly resolution 56/114 was considered in the preparation of the draft law for the revitalization and development of the cooperative movement, and the creation of a strong cooperative sector in the economy of the country. When this law is adopted, the revision of all current legislation on the activities of consumers, agricultural cooperatives and credit unions will be completed. The Government has adopted a programme of agricultural cooperatives development for 2003-2004. In 2000 and 2001, there were several revisions of the current law on agricultural cooperation with the aim of encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives.

39. The Government of the United Kingdom attaches importance to creating a supportive enabling environment for the development of cooperatives. It believes that the United Kingdom is already broadly compliant with the United Nations guidelines and it participated closely in the development of International Labour Organization (ILO) Recommendation No. 193 of 2002 on the Promotion of Cooperatives. The major review of legislation governing the not-for-profit sector began during 2002 and is currently being considered by Parliament. The reforms will help to modernize the legislation that applies to cooperatives by allowing appropriate updates to occur more easily. The Government has reviewed and brought forward a number of reforms to legislation over the last few years so as to increase the operational flexibility of credit unions.

3. Training, education and good practices

40. Most of the Governments that responded to the survey have various programmes for strengthening the cooperative sector, including measures to promote education and technical training of members, leadership and management of national cooperatives. They help to organize forums, seminars and workshops to promote an exchange of experience and good practices, to ensure transparency and quality of cooperative activities.

41. In Botswana, the Department of Cooperative Development in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations is implementing resolutions of the ICA Regional Assembly for Africa (Mauritius, September 2002) and the African Ministerial Conference (Uganda, November 2002) on member empowerment and capacity-building, human resources development policy, youth, gender, people with disabilities, and research and development. The Department also undertakes the education of members, the elected leadership and professional management. Cooperative managers are trained in local institutions as well as in cooperative institutions of the United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Canada, Sweden, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. To promote

an exchange of experience and best practices in cooperative development, Botswana has special programmes with ILO and ICA and regularly organizes conferences and business meetings for these purposes.

42. The Government of Cambodia has promoted exchange and best practices through seminars on cooperative law and workshops to raise awareness of the role of cooperatives in economic development.

43. In Canada, the national cooperative sector groups are mature organizations which have taken responsibility for the training of their own boards and employees. However, the federal Government has responded to specific requests from the cooperative sector to address identified needs. For example, leadership development in agricultural cooperatives was identified as an issue, and project funds are currently being used to develop a targeted training curriculum and resources which will be replicable for other economic sectors. Most cooperative-specific projects include a strong sharing-of-learning element, including national and/or regional workshops, seminars, and dissemination of information through web sites and other means.

44. The Government of China organizes training for cooperative leadership at the provincial level, demonstration sessions for grass-roots-level management and training workshops for other managerial personnel. Graduates of professional schools are selected for further training at universities to become instructors, and managerial staff of cooperatives are sent for training abroad. The National Association of Cooperatives holds training sessions and conferences to promote an exchange of experience and best practices in cooperative development.

45. In Cyprus, cooperatives are able to participate in the professional seminars offered by the Government to strengthen small and medium-sized businesses. The Government also organizes seminars, in cooperation with the Pan Cyprian Cooperative Confederation, that are specifically designed for the needs of cooperative members. The Scholarship Commission offers scholarships to cooperators for studies abroad. To promote and exchange best practices, the Department organizes seminars and visits to cooperatives abroad, and promotes the formation of special teams, especially from small cooperatives, which research and provide recommendations on best practices to all cooperatives.

46. The cooperative legislation in India specifies that every multi-State cooperative is to organize education programmes for its members, directors and employees and that the society shall provide funds for that purpose. In cooperation with national cooperatives and international organizations, the Government organizes conferences, workshops, and seminars at national and regional levels to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives and also for the exchange of experience and best practices.

47. In Kuwait, programmes, workshops, and seminars are offered to members, elected leadership, and professional management to raise awareness and improve education. The Government is using the media to convey cooperatives-related ideas, and schools have incorporated the subject of cooperatives into their curricula. The Government arranges for cooperative members to undertake exchange visits to other organizations, and organizes consultations with international experts, and programmes to promote an exchange of experience and best practices.

48. The Government of Kyrgyzstan provides training and consultative services to cooperative managers within the programme of support to small and medium-sized businesses. In Mali, the Government has undertaken studies on cooperative effectiveness and has incorporated the findings from these studies in the national strategy. In addition, the Government of Mali has conducted a series of seminars and workshops organized at both the regional and national levels. In Malta, the education of cooperative members is supported by the Central Cooperative Fund. A series of books and brochures about cooperative management is issued in both the Maltese and English languages. An extensive educational campaign in secondary schools — called Scoops — has entered its eighth year.

49. The Government of Mauritius has established a full-fledged National Cooperative Training Centre, equipped with modern training facilities, which has already trained more than 1,000 young graduates and undergraduates, and members and managers of cooperatives. Arrangements have been made to train 1,000 more persons in the current year. Since 1999, the Government, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, has arranged several conferences, workshops and seminars. Mauritius hosted the ICA Regional Assembly for Africa in September 2002.

50. The Government of Mongolia is organizing training for poor people and vulnerable groups so as to provide them with basic knowledge on cooperative development. A cooperative training centre has been established in cooperation with Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), the German technical assistance agency, while the "Rural Self-Help" project has been established in four provinces of Mongolia. Cooperative education is being expanded and the curricula of different colleges and universities now include classes on cooperatives. There have been opportunities for cooperators in Mongolia to benefit from international exchange: the heads of all cooperatives unions have participated in a study tour of cooperatives in Germany, and the managers of the largest cooperatives have attended a training course on cooperative development and management in Malaysia. The Government has proclaimed 2003 as the "Year of Promoting the Development of Cooperatives" and several national conferences on cooperative achievements are planned for the year.

51. In 2002, the Mongolian Government hosted an expert group meeting on the "Supportive environment for cooperative development" which was jointly organized with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and with the assistance of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC). The meeting was a follow-up to the issuance of the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, and the primary purpose of the meeting was to provide support to Member States and national, regional and international cooperative organizations in their efforts to create a supportive environment for cooperative development and to promote an exchange of experience and best practices.

52. In the Philippines, a series of conferences on the establishment of a centralized financing system for cooperatives was conducted with the help of the Bavarian Federation of Cooperatives. A Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)-assisted agro-based cooperative benchmarking and best practices study was completed at the end of January 2003. In Portugal, there are annual training programmes to promote and strengthen the education of cooperative members and the professional skills of the elected leadership and management of the

national cooperative movement. It is a requirement that at least half of those who establish a new cooperative receive cooperative and management training. To promote an exchange of experience and best practices, several events were organized, including the Congress of Portuguese Cooperatives on "Cooperativism in the new millennium: the cooperative advantage" in 1999, and the seminar on "Local Development, Citizenship and the Social Economy" in 2000.

53. In Qatar, the new legal and administrative provisions encourage cooperatives to finance educational and training programmes. The Government actively cooperates with international cooperative organizations, such as the Arab Cooperative Union, and the ICA Office for North Africa and the Arab World, to promote an exchange of experience and best practices in cooperative development through conferences, workshops and seminars.

54. In Turkey, staff of the ministries responsible for cooperatives receive cooperative education and training. The ministries also organize seminars and workshops for exchange of experience and education/training of cooperative management.

55. Ukraine has developed a solid national system of cooperative education. All agricultural universities and colleges include issues of cooperative development in their curricula. The cooperative system of education embraces an academy, a university on consumer cooperation and 22 colleges with an enrolment of 40,000 students. An international conference on the "National Cooperative Movement and Structural Changes in the Ukrainian Economy in the 21st Century" was convened in the nation's capital city in 2001. The Government has initiated an exchange of experiences and best practices in cooperative development through annual national conferences and regular workshops and seminars at the regional and local levels.

4. Data on cooperatives

56. Data on cooperatives are not available in many countries. Even where data are available, the coverage of the data on cooperatives is uneven, as is evident from the summary of country experiences given below.

57. The Government of Botswana reports that it does not have statistical databases on the development of cooperatives and on their contribution to the national economy, but research is due to be undertaken during the implementation of the National Development Plan for 2003-2009.

58. In Canada, the Cooperatives Secretariat gathers and publishes statistics on all non-financial cooperatives every year, while Statistics Canada does the same for financial cooperatives. The Government of Chile has basic statistical databases on the development of the cooperative sector in several sectors, including farming, electricity, credit and savings, and housing. There is also an initiative to create a computer registry and archive of cooperatives and their members.

59. In Cyprus, the Department of Cooperative Development maintains detailed statistical databases on the development of cooperatives and their contribution to the national economy. The Department also maintains records for each cooperative. In Germany, the Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture maintains statistical databases on the development of cooperatives and on their contribution to the national economy. "Deutscher Genossenschafts und Raiffeisenverband", the

German umbrella association for agricultural cooperatives, offers unofficial statistical material on its home page.

60. The Kyrgyz National Committee on Statistics collects data on the number of registered cooperatives; their membership; wage reserve funds; number of newly created jobs; financial results; and volume of production and provided services. In Mali, statistical databases on the cooperatives exist but the data need to be expanded. In Malta, the Cooperatives Board has statistical databases of turnover, surplus, income and expenditure of cooperatives available from annual audited accounts. The Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Cooperatives of Mauritius and 14 regional cooperative centres maintain up-to-date statistical data on cooperatives.

61. The National Statistical Office in Mongolia has a cooperatives registration system. It has introduced some methodologies to evaluate the contribution of cooperatives to the development of the country's economy. In Panama, the current statistical database does not allow for an evaluation of the contribution of the cooperative sector to the national economy. There are negotiations being undertaken with the Confederation of Caribbean and Central American Cooperatives to improve the situation. In the Philippines, the integrated cooperative statistical database consists of three independent databases: the Cooperative Registration Information System; the Cooperative Annual Report Information System; and the Cooperative Classification Information System.

62. In Portugal, there is a register of the number of active cooperatives in the country. A study is published every year on the 100 largest Portuguese cooperative companies which allows a comparison of their contribution to the national economy with that of other major non-cooperative companies. Studies are also carried out from time to time on the economic and social importance of the cooperative sector in Portugal, but there are no permanently updated official statistics on cooperative development.

63. The Government of Qatar has statistical databases on the development of cooperatives, including membership, and social and economic activities, as well as the problems and hardships encountered. The Government of Spain has a regularly updated statistical database on cooperative organizations, their membership and activities. In Saint Kitts and Nevis, currently available statistical databases on the development of cooperatives provide information on membership, shares, deposits, loans and investments. The Government of Turkey has statistical databases on members of supervision boards, management, membership size, title and establishment of cooperatives. The State Committee on Statistics of Ukraine has databases on the development of cooperatives and on their contribution to the national economy.

64. In the United Kingdom, statistical information is available on the total number of cooperatives, the breakdown of number of cooperatives by economic sector, the reasons for changes in the numbers of cooperatives, the numbers of members and the total assets (also available by sector). The Department of Trade and Industry is commissioning research to establish information on the social enterprise sector, including its size, its contribution to the economy, and the number of people it employs.

B. Agencies and organizations

65. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat continues to actively support cooperative development, *inter alia*, by actively participating as a member in the work of COPAC which brings together United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to coordinate their activities in the development of cooperatives through raising awareness about cooperatives among Member States; by encouraging and supporting Governments in respect of ensuring a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives that protects and advances the potential of cooperatives so as to help them achieve their goals; and by sharing experience and good practices in the development of cooperatives.

66. In this regard, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized, together with the Government of Mongolia, and with the assistance of COPAC, an expert group meeting on the "Supportive Environment for Cooperatives: A Stakeholder Dialogue on Definitions, Prerequisites and Process of Creation". The meeting, which was held in Ulaanbaatar from 15 to 17 May 2002, identified key issues relevant to implementing the draft guidelines and set out specific suggestions and recommendations pertaining to the creation of a supportive environment for cooperative development.

67. The FAO cooperative programme aims at strengthening decentralized capacities of public, private sector and civil society institutions such as cooperatives, farmers' groups and producer associations in support of rural poverty alleviation. FAO has been implementing a training-of-trainers programme aimed at helping developing countries and countries in transition transform their agricultural cooperatives into genuine self-reliant organizations that would operate efficiently within a market economy and contribute to improving incomes and employment opportunities for small producers. Through its field programme and technical assistance projects, FAO assists Governments in developing national cooperative policies, programmes and legislation that create a supportive and enabling environment for the establishment and operation of viable, self-reliant rural/agricultural cooperatives.

68. A Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and ICA ensures their cooperation by consultation, exchange of information and coordination of efforts in the promotion of cooperative principles and methods. FAO has assisted in the establishment of, and provides continuing technical assistance to, the Regional Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and the Pacific. Another focus of the FAO cooperative programme is on strengthening the business competitiveness of agricultural cooperatives through improved cooperative capital formation. A new initiative launched recently by FAO encompasses the strengthening of agricultural cooperative business competitiveness through computerization.

69. The ILO Cooperative Branch places great emphasis on the employment-creation and poverty alleviation activities of cooperatives and their capacity to provide social protection, especially to the marginalized sectors of society. ILO technical cooperation activities put particular emphasis on capacitating managers and board members of cooperatives established by the poorer and marginalized communities. The Interregional Programme to Support Self-Reliance of Indigenous

and Tribal Communities through Cooperatives and other Self-Help Organizations (INDISCO Programme), for example, has a special mandate to enable and help indigenous peoples to establish cooperatives and to create decent employment through culturally appropriate and community-driven approaches. In the last six years, INDISCO projects in Asia and Africa created some 15,000 sustainable jobs for indigenous peoples through cooperatives.

70. The 90th International Labour Conference in June 2002 adopted Recommendation No. 193, which is the new ILO Recommendation on the Promotion of Cooperatives. Its main features are: recognition of the importance of cooperatives in economic and social development; reaffirmation of the cooperative identity; equal treatment for cooperatives; definition of the government's role in creating a supportive policy and legal framework, and in facilitating access to support services and finance; an active promotional role for employers', workers' and cooperative organizations; and encouragement of international cooperation.

71. Through its technical cooperation programmes, the ILO Cooperative Branch has undertaken extensive efforts to promote social development and poverty alleviation in rural areas through cooperative development that promote gender equality, women's empowerment, food security etc. An example is the programme of poverty alleviation through job creation (ACOPAM programme) which was implemented in the Sahel from 1978 to 2000. It carried out more than 30 national field projects in six different countries, and benefited more than 85,000 men and women in rural areas through activities of self-management, village grain banks, savings and credit schemes, village irrigation schemes, and natural resource management.

72. The ILO Cooperative Branch assists Member States in designing appropriate cooperative development policies and legislation using the new Recommendation on the Promotion of Cooperatives. ILO also works with its social partners, and employers' and workers' organizations to promote cooperatives among their members. ICA and national cooperative apex organizations as well as cooperative training institutions are also among the ILO partners in cooperative development.

73. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) reports that it collaborated with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and ICA in organizing a colloquium on "Contribution of the cooperative sector to housing development" in Ankara, Turkey, in June 2002. This meeting was followed by a workshop on social housing in May 2003, which was organized jointly with the European Liaison Committee for Social Housing and ICA. ECE also reports that in its ongoing programme on human settlements, countries in transition are encouraged to examine the possibilities of reinforcing housing cooperatives, and that the Committee on Human Settlements supports further strengthening of cooperation with ICA through regular contacts and exchange of information on activities.

74. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has implemented a project, with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands, consisting of six case studies of savings in the countries of the region. These studies highlighted the contribution of cooperatives to the attainment of social development goals and the need to promote a supportive environment for cooperatives.

75. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) supports community-based self-help initiatives in the form of saving and microcredit schemes, and cooperatives. An important benefit of such an approach is that it enables poor women to own and operate collective enterprises in order to add value to the primary products they produce. A project entitled "Empowering women in poverty" which is planned for implementation in 2003 will focus on women's cooperatives. ESCAP has worked with the Asian Women in Cooperative Development Forum on critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action.¹

76. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) reports that agricultural cooperatives participated in the consultative process to develop a project entitled "Capacity-building to Support Agricultural and Rural Cooperatives to Foster Sustainable Development in South Lebanon". The World Food Programme (WFP) reports that it no longer engages in any direct interventions in the development and promotion of cooperatives as part of its activities, but continues to work with many organizations — local, national and international — that promote voluntary and self-help action through community-based associations.

77. ICA has been actively promoting the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/114 as an integral part of its activities, and has disseminated the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives to over 230 ICA member cooperative organizations in 100 countries. In terms of its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, ICA will launch a Global Cooperative Campaign against Poverty at its General Assembly in September 2003.

78. ICA also actively participated in the revision of ILO Recommendation No. 127 on the Role of Cooperatives in the Economic and Social Development of Developing Countries (1966), and has disseminated information on the new ILO Recommendation No. 193 on cooperatives. It continues work on collecting and disseminating statistical information on cooperatives which shows the significance of cooperatives in national economies. ICA has established a Legislative Advisory Group to provide information and advice on cooperative legislation. Currently, ICA participates in the publication of a COPAC compendium of resources for cooperatives which includes the following items: Guidelines for Cooperative Legislation; a Manual on "How to Start a Cooperative"; and a Glossary of Cooperative Terminology.

C. International Day of Cooperatives

79. Many Governments report that the International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated in their country each year, but not all Governments participate in the observance of the Day. Of those Governments that do not now observe the Day, some report that they intend to start observing the Day in 2003 or at a later date.

80. In Canada, cooperatives celebrate achievements of the cooperative movement during the third week of October, which is linked with International Credit Union Day. This "cooperatives week" is recognized officially through public statements in the federal Parliament and in some provincial legislatures. In China, the theme of the Day varies from year to year, all aimed at publicizing the role and importance of

cooperatives in the Chinese economy, in helping disadvantaged groups, and in improving living conditions for all.

81. The Government of Mauritius and the National Cooperative Union organize a series of activities on the Day, including a picture contest and essay competition for primary and secondary school children so as to create awareness among children about cooperatives. In Panama, the Day is observed through the organization of conferences, forums on issues related to cooperatives, and a parade attended by thousands of cooperators from all regions. The observance of the Day ends with a speech by the President of the republic or a government representative.

82. In the Philippines, Cooperative Month is celebrated from 15 October to 16 November each year. The highlight of the event is the National Cooperative Summit. The members of the best cooperatives are invited to share their business operation experiences with the local cooperatives. In Ukraine, national, regional and local mass media provide information on the events of the Day, and on the achievements and role of cooperatives in the development of the country. The President, the Speaker of the Parliament and the Prime Minister attend the event celebrating the day.

83. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs marks the International Day of Cooperatives each year with special events: In 2001, a panel on "The role of cooperatives in poverty reduction" was held on 17 October to coincide with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The panel discussion highlighted the important role cooperatives can play in achieving the goals of full and productive employment, eradication of poverty, social integration and the advancement of women. In 2002, a panel discussion on "Society and cooperatives: concern for community" was organized to highlight the important contribution that cooperatives make as associations and enterprises through which citizens can improve their lives while contributing to the economic, social, cultural and political advancement of their community and nation.

84. ILO and FAO report that they prepare, on a regular basis, special flyers on their activities in support of cooperative development for inclusion in the press pack that is issued by ICA each year for the Day. In addition, ILO and FAO encourage their social partners to participate with cooperative organizations in marking the Day in order to promote cooperative development.

85. ICA organizes an annual celebration of the Day, and distributes its message to mark the Day together with other material to over 2,000 organizations and individuals. In addition, information on the Day is posted on the ICA web site.

III. Conclusions and proposals for further action

86. There is evidence that sustained efforts have been made to create a supportive environment for cooperative development in many countries. In particular, there have been efforts to revamp cooperative regulations and legislation in light of the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives. There have also been many initiatives at all levels to enhance the capacity and efficiency of cooperatives and their management in order to better serve their members and communities through training, education, human resources development and exchange of

good practices. International cooperation for cooperative development is also evident at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

87. Several useful proposals for further action to promote a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives were provided in the responses to the questionnaires. Better legislation, training, research, partnerships, sharing of good practices, and human resources development were recurring themes and, in summary, it was proposed that:

(a) National cooperative training and information centres should be strengthened. Services such as information and referral, consultancy and training (including entrepreneurship development) should be provided to cooperatives in an integrated package. The development of joint ventures should also be encouraged;

(b) A stronger focus is needed on the integration and strengthening of national and international cooperative networks so as to facilitate the exchange of ideas, experiences and good practices, as well as the provision of technical, legal and institutional assistance. At the regional level, countries should exchange their experiences through conferences, seminars and/or workshops;

(c) COPAC should organize research on the cooperative model in order to demonstrate where it works best and where it can be used innovatively; and develop the means to share among States best practices and lessons learned. COPAC should also emphasize the links between cooperatives and social development, building and facilitating partnerships not just with cooperative organizations but with others sharing similar objectives or undertaking complementary work;

(d) The United Nations should provide further assistance for human resources development, technical advice and training through conferences, workshops and support for international cooperation on cooperatives. In this regard, it was suggested that it might be necessary to provide specific funds for creating and developing cooperatives within the remit of United Nations funds and programmes.

Notes

¹ Replies were received from Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mongolia, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

² Replies were received from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Office; Economic Commission for Europe; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; World Food Programme; and International Cooperative Alliance (with inputs from the Cooperative Union of India).

³ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.



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**Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons:
Second World Assembly on Ageing**

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report introduces the road map for the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing; it highlights the main gender dimensions of the Madrid Plan of Action; it also reviews the progress in defining the modalities for the review and appraisal of the Plan and outlines major developments during the first year of the implementation process. A number of recommendations in bold are presented to the General Assembly for consideration.

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A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.



I. Introduction

1. The present report addresses General Assembly resolution 57/167, by which the Assembly endorsed two major outcomes of the Second World Assembly on Ageing: the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take the necessary steps to implement the Madrid Plan of Action and encouraged the international community further to promote cooperation among all actors involved in the implementation of the Plan. In this connection, the Assembly welcomed the preparation of a road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by the United Nations Programme on Ageing and invited all relevant actors to contribute to its preparation. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited the Commission for Social Development, as the entity responsible for the follow-up to and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, to consider integrating the different dimensions of population ageing as contained in the Plan in its work and to consider the modalities for reviews and appraisals at its forty-first session in 2003.

2. The report also responds to General Assembly resolution 57/177 on the situation of older women in society. In that resolution, the Assembly stressed the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of older women in policy and planning processes at all levels. It emphasized the need to develop and improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by age and sex and urged Governments and the United Nations system to reflect the needs, perspectives and experiences of older women in development policies and programmes.

3. At its forty-first session, the Commission for Social Development requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session information on the implementation of its draft resolution IV, entitled "Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002".¹ That draft resolution invited Governments as well as the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Plan, through, *inter alia*, sharing of ideas, data collection and best practices.

II. Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: first steps

4. During the first year of follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, progress in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action was visible in several areas, including intergovernmental processes, inter-agency activities, regional actions, research and information dissemination.

5. The intergovernmental process focused on defining the modalities for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. In response to resolution 57/167, the Commission for Social Development, at its forty-first session, addressed, among other issues, the review and appraisal of the Plan. As a result of its deliberations, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council endorsement of the bottom-up narrative approach to the review and appraisal of the Plan.

6. In February 2003, immediately after the forty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, a one-day consultative meeting of the United Nations system focal points on ageing was organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The participants at the meeting gave specific consideration to the follow-up activities of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, including the process of review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action and technical cooperation activities to support implementation of the Plan. The deliberations of the meeting are expected to be presented to the High-level Committee on Programmes in order to keep system-wide implementation of the Plan on the agenda of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, as recommended in the Plan.

7. The regional processes aimed at translating the Madrid International Plan of Action into regional action plans have also progressed. Following the adoption of regional implementation strategies for the regions of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has advanced preparations, in collaboration with the members of the United Nations inter-agency group on ageing, for a regional ministerial meeting, which is expected to consider the regional implementation strategy for the ECLAC region. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Chile in November 2003.

8. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs programme on ageing has continued, in collaboration with the International Association of Gerontology (IAG), to develop the project on the Research Agenda on Ageing for the Twenty-First Century. The global document of the Research Agenda was adopted at the Valencia Forum in April 2002 and presented to the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid. The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/177, welcomed the adoption of the Research Agenda by the Valencia Forum, to support the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. In March 2003, a regional consultation of experts was convened by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Programme on Ageing and IAG with the financial support of the non-governmental organization Help the Aged UK, in Cape Town, South Africa. The consultation in Cape Town identified priorities for policy-related research on ageing in Africa, which could support the implementation of the Plan in the region. Similar meetings are organized or planned for all regions.

9. In response to resolution 57/167, the Programme on Ageing, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, has undertaken measures to disseminate the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. These include the production and distribution of the Plan in three official languages (English, French and Spanish) and the publication of a reader-friendly digest of the Plan in all six official languages. The Programme has also updated its Internet web site to present information related to the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

III. Road map for the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

10. The road map sets out a practical framework for implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The framework will assist countries to

elaborate strategies for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action at the national level by helping them to set national priorities and select approaches. Simultaneously, the road map strives to stimulate international cooperation to assist Member States in their implementation efforts.

11. The Madrid Plan of Action formulates specific objectives and proposes recommendations for action, which are organized in three priority directions: older persons and development, advancing health and well-being into old age and ensuring an enabling and supportive environment. As stated in the Plan, the priority directions are designed to guide policy formulation and implementation towards the specific goal of successful adjustment to an ageing world, in which success is measured in terms of social development, an improvement in quality of life for older persons and the sustainability of the various systems, formal and informal, that underpin the quality of well-being throughout the life course. Thus, the Plan recommends *what* could be done to adjust to an ageing world and build a society for all ages. The road map suggests *how* to move towards practical implementation of the Plan's recommendations.

12. The road map takes into consideration the recommendations of the Plan for national action for its implementation and follow-up; it also incorporates the priorities for international cooperation on ageing formulated in the Plan. It is designed with the understanding that implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action is neither a linear nor a simultaneous process: the speed and direction of action are expected to vary between and within nations. Yet two universal and essential facets of the implementation process, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, may be identified: national capacity-building and mainstreaming of ageing into the national developmental agenda. The two facets are interlinked and interdependent.

13. The implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action is an evolving process. The strategy for its implementation should also evolve as a result of implementation activities and experience and ongoing communications between all relevant international and national actors. The role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs Programme on Ageing, as the United Nations focal point on ageing, is to facilitate the evolving project of the road map through networking within and outside the United Nations system.

A. National action

14. The Madrid Plan of Action states that its implementation will require sustained action at all levels. The national level is where the success or failure of the implementation process will be determined. Mainstreaming ageing and capacity-building are two major facets of the national implementation process.

15. Member States, in the Political Declaration adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, recognized the importance of placing ageing in development agendas and committed themselves to the task of effectively incorporating ageing within social and economic strategies, policies and action. The Madrid Plan of Action underscores that a necessary first step in the successful implementation of the Plan is to mainstream ageing and the concerns of older persons into national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies.

16. The Madrid Plan of Action signifies a move away from a "welfare approach" that tended to overemphasize the care and benefits needed to support older persons while excluding them from the development policy dialogue. The Plan states that policies on ageing deserve close examination from the developmental perspective of a broader life course and a society-wide view, taking into account recent global initiatives and the guiding principles set down by major United Nations conferences and summits. It is now increasingly recognized that national development goals will not be reached when a fast growing segment of the population remains excluded from the process of development.

17. Experience in the implementation of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing (1982-2002) indicated that progress at the national level was uneven and often insufficient, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Member States often attributed this to a lack of funding to implement the national plan, poor institutional capacity or the absence of high-level political priority for ageing issues. Programmes and projects aimed at improving the situation of older persons have repeatedly failed to attract significant donor financing and the attention of policy makers or United Nations development agencies. The links that have been missing to date are a systematic exploration of why and how older persons have been disadvantaged and excluded from mainstream development, along with efforts to promote a dialogue and assist in overcoming this exclusion. Mainstreaming ageing is not an attempt to make older persons another "new" beneficiary group or give them preferential treatment, but an attempt to ensure that people of all ages are involved in decisions and actions to promote development and can enjoy the benefits of development.

18. The Madrid Plan of Action also emphasizes the importance of national capacity-building as a prerequisite for successful implementation. The international community has learned with other mainstreaming initiatives, the most notable being gender mainstreaming, that without capacity-building, mainstreaming is unlikely to happen following the adoption of a plan of action.

19. Therefore, in order to support Member States in their implementation efforts, particularly in promoting and mainstreaming ageing into national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is formulating a programme to assist Member States, upon their request, to implement the Madrid Plan of Action at the national level. One facet of this programme will be the convening of national workshops that will offer Member States the opportunity to focus on their implementation priorities within the context of the Plan, assess their implementation needs and available infrastructure and identify resources. During these workshops, several issues will be explored and addressed within the national implementation process, including:

- (a) Benefits of and obstacles to mainstreaming issues of ageing into national development agenda;
- (b) Role of national focal points and mechanisms on ageing in the development of national policy;
- (c) Status of national age and sex-disaggregated data collection and analytical analysis as the basis for successful mainstreaming. The task here is to pinpoint age and gender-based exclusion and inequality in order to influence policy design, monitoring and evaluation;

(d) Participation of older persons in the processes of formulation, implementation and monitoring of the development agenda. Currently, older persons are subsumed under general beneficiary groups, such as "farmers" or "women", which often leads to their marginalization in discussions and outcomes;

(e) Building and adjusting organizational capacity in order to achieve the understanding, commitment and capacity of staff to undertake age-sensitive analysis and initiatives.

20. To lay the groundwork for national workshops, an interregional consultative meeting will be organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and hosted by the Government of Austria in Vienna from 9 to 12 December 2003. The meeting will explore the parameters of future work of the Department in supporting the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action at the national level. It is expected that the interregional meeting will propose concrete approaches to the elaboration of national implementation strategies, which would include combined efforts to promote national capacity-building and mainstream ageing issues into national development agendas and policies. In practical terms, the Vienna meeting is expected to lead to the production of training materials for national-level workshops to pilot such implementation strategies, which could be offered to interested Member States beginning during the biennium 2004-2005.

B. International action

21. The Madrid Plan of Action established that the challenges of an ageing society must also be addressed through global development agendas and that policy responses to ageing must be mainstreamed in cross-sectoral policies, programmes, objectives and priorities at the international level. According to the Plan, mainstreaming ageing into global agendas is essential and requires that ageing be linked to other frameworks for social and economic development and human rights.

22. Mainstreaming ageing at the global level requires a systematic process and strategy to incorporate ageing into all facets of development programmes and policies. It requires different thinking about respective mandates and institutional frameworks, and reduction of compartmentalization. A crucial starting point would be to incorporate ageing in the elaboration of United Nations Common Country Assessments and subsequent Development Assistance Frameworks at the country level. Mainstreaming should not create separate or new programmes where implementation becomes hindered by lack of resources. Rather, it should integrate ageing into existing processes and work programmes of the United Nations system organizations and development budgets and include older persons in policy implementation and evaluation as a matter of course.

23. Strategic plans and policies specifically targeted to older persons are still critical, but not enough to address the global reach of the ageing issue. Successful adjustment to an ageing society should not merely address the linear ascent into old age but should promote broad-scale adjustments throughout life and across social, economic and political institutions. Ageing needs to be linked to global agendas on poverty to include older poor people; on children and youth to include intergenerational issues; on the advancement of women to include older women; on rural development to include issues of ageing in rural and remote areas; and on HIV/AIDS to include its impact on older persons and to recognize the vital

contribution of older persons in keeping families and communities together in the face of HIV/AIDS.

24. The link between ageing and poverty has been neglected in the global debate on poverty reduction strategies owing to the lack of hard statistical evidence on poverty levels of older persons and knowledge about the intergenerational transmission of poverty. This neglect is most evident in the case of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), formulated by Governments in association with the Bretton Woods institutions, and in relation to the poverty-reduction targets and social and economic development objectives contained in the Millennium Development Goals. As societies age, integrating ageing into internationally agreed outcomes would help institutions to keep pace with the changes induced by demographic trends. It is important to start with the action programmes of the Goals and to integrate ageing and other social groups into procedures governing the PRSPs so that the potential of pro-poor policies are realized to the fullest.

25. The global actions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and implement PRSPs are providing opportunities for the involvement of all sectors of civil society and Government — including the ministries of planning and finance. An incremental approach may best incorporate ageing by setting achievable, practical targets that utilize existing data to establish policy now, rather than waiting for later when the data finally convinces policy makers of the urgency of the issue. Nonetheless, the lack of age-disaggregated data in many countries is a serious limitation to policy formulation and development. In the context of implementation and follow-up processes at the international, national and regional levels, the Madrid Plan of Action called for data collection and analysis of gender and age-specific information for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation, since research provided essential evidence for the effectiveness of policies and the basis for the future development of effective policies. **Therefore, the General Assembly may wish to consider requesting the Statistical Commission to begin to develop modalities for disaggregating statistics on the basis of age and sex as soon as possible.**

26. Thus, although dialogue on ageing as a cross-cutting theme has significantly increased among stakeholders, the inclusion of ageing in development processes is constrained by the lack of data and formulation of indicators. Currently, Millennium Development Goals indicators do not encompass age-disaggregated data. Unless in-depth participatory surveys are undertaken to extract the necessary qualitative data, older persons will, more likely than not, continue to be an overlooked group.

27. In addition to the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework mechanism, another way to integrate ageing into development processes is through the process of developing PRSPs. These provide a crucial link between national actions, donor support and the development outcomes needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The integration of ageing into this process can increase capacity for policy design, including better understanding of ageing as a developmental issue; foster improved dialogue between Government and civil society about the contributions older persons make to poverty reduction as well as the multidimensional and intergenerational aspects of poverty; and facilitate more inclusive and systematic reporting of the ageing-poverty link.

28. To this end, a regional workshop will be organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania and HelpAge International, in October 2003 to explore the nature of the ageing-poverty

relationship in East and Central Africa and identify measures needed to incorporate an ageing-poverty focus in poverty policies and strategies (PRSPs) and into the Millennium Development Goals action programmes. The premise is that older persons are a visible and growing presence among the world's poorest people and that they are overlooked as contributors to the reduction of poverty in their communities, including in the care of orphans in areas affected by HIV/AIDS. The meeting will explore old age and intergenerational poverty within a broader development agenda, including issues of access to and control of resources, and how poverty reduction and social integration can be made central to economic and fiscal policy. It is ultimately crucial that ageing ties into the Millennium Development process in which Governments selected, within Goal 1, the target of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's population whose income is less than \$1 a day. Without taking account of and including older persons, it is unlikely that the poverty reduction objectives will be achieved in an ageing society. **The General Assembly may therefore wish to encourage Governments and the United Nations system to ensure the incorporation of ageing into actions to achieve Goal 1 on the eradication of poverty.**

29. The Commission for Social Development seeks to encourage countries to develop poverty policies and strategies that fully take into account older persons. In addition to poverty, however, interlinkage of ageing with all the relevant issues — gender, participation and human rights, social protection and employment, health care and the environment — should be taken into account. Several United Nations system focal points are now moving to incorporate ageing into components of their work programmes both regionally and globally. But the process has yet to reach a stage where issues arising from ageing are an integral part of development policies, strategies and programmes. **The General Assembly may wish to consider requesting United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to take up the issue of mainstreaming ageing in their programmes of work and to report on their progress to the Commission for Social Development.**

IV. Gender dimensions of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its implementation

30. In the Political Declaration, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Governments reaffirmed their commitment to promote gender equality and recognized the need to mainstream gender perspectives into all policies and programmes to take account of the needs and experiences of older women and men. The Assembly stressed that the situation of older women was to be a priority for policy action and that recognizing the differential impact of ageing on women and men was integral to the development of effective measures to achieve full equality between women and men.

31. The Madrid Plan of Action covers such areas as women's active participation in society and development, including women's equal participation in decision-making; women's unpaid contributions to the community, including care for family members, household maintenance and voluntary work, as well as productive subsistence work; gender-sensitive policies aimed at reconciling work and caregiving responsibilities; women's participation in the labour market and related limited ability to build pensions for their retirement and independence at an older

age; their lack of control over financial and property resources; the contributions of older women in rural development; the feminization of poverty and related income security and social protection, including in emergency situations and in post-conflict reconstruction, rehabilitation and development; and women's access to knowledge, education and training and to information and communication technologies.

32. The Madrid Plan of Action recognized the particular vulnerability of older women to disability owing to, *inter alia*, gender differences in life expectancy and disease susceptibility and gender inequalities over the life course and called for the elimination of gender and age-based social and economic inequalities in the provision of health-care services. The Plan also emphasized the particular risks faced by older women of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, including through harmful practices, and in emergency situations.

33. In order to ensure a supportive and enabling environment, the Madrid Plan of Action emphasized the role of older women in the provision of informal care. It also recognized that women, who provided most of the informal care, carried the cost in the form of both the financial penalty of low pension contributions, forgone promotions, lower incomes, and the physical and emotional cost of the stress resulting from balancing work and household obligations. That burden had grown because of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially for older women, particularly in developing countries. In order to support women in that regard, Governments agreed that community-based care and support to families had to be provided, but also called for further information on how older women in caregiving could be assisted. Governments also decided to encourage the mass media to promote positive images of ageing, in particular of older women affected by misleading and negative stereotypes.

34. The situation of older women and the gender aspects of ageing should receive explicit attention from Governments and other stakeholders in order to ensure that the gender perspectives of ageing, as reflected in the Madrid Plan of Action, are adequately addressed in the implementation and review processes.

35. The General Assembly may wish to recommend that institutional linkages be established or strengthened at the national level between national machineries for the advancement of women and those governmental programmes or bodies that have responsibility for developing, coordinating and/or implementing ageing-related policies and programmes. The involvement of non-governmental organizations focusing specifically on the situation of older women should be explicitly sought in such activities.

36. Opportunities for systematic attention to the gender aspects of ageing and the situation of older women should continue to be enhanced within the United Nations system. The mainstreaming of ageing should be undertaken from a gender perspective. In this regard, institutional linkages between gender focal points and focal points on ageing could strengthen technical expertise as well as increase the impact of activities.

37. Opportunities should be explored for further coordination and collaboration between the Commission for Social Development, responsible for follow-up to the Madrid Plan of Action, and the Commission on the Status of Women with regard to issues of older women and in the framework of their multi-year programmes of work.

V. Modalities for review and appraisal

38. The Commission for Social Development recommended, at its forty-first session, that the Economic and Social Council endorse a bottom-up narrative approach for review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. The bottom-up approach is an open-ended, participatory process that seeks to incorporate and link local and national activities to United Nations regional and global intergovernmental bodies.

39. The central idea is to allow the traditional intergovernmental deliberative process to benefit from a sound and carefully considered narrative assessment of whether or not the Madrid objectives are being achieved at national, local, regional and subregional levels. A number of modalities may be considered which involve a participatory approach. These entail open-ended dialogue and sharing of ideas, meetings, collection of data and best practices. Various stakeholders — at local levels in as well as outside Government and in partnership and coordination with national actors — are expected to take part.

40. In addition to the narrative approach, some Member countries will wish to monitor implementation with the help of data and indicators. However, in many developing countries, the funding to gather the data may not be available. An element of review in these countries could be mainstreamed into existing governmental and civil society monitoring exercises. The key is to ensure that the review appropriately utilizes the experience, expertise and resources of all stakeholders at the national and local levels and that the review process is linked to findings at the regional and subregional levels. Regional support to review is critical: it provides a strategic advantage in assessing the progress of implementation by serving as a bridge between national and global considerations while also addressing common areas of concern and shared interests. At the global level, the review and appraisal of the implementation of the broad range of recommendations in the Plan will vary from region to region and will require recognition of the vast diversity of the issues.

41. The Madrid Plan of Action called for ageing to be linked to development issues and to be embedded into development targets and agendas. Thus, an important component of monitoring will be to track the extent to which mainstreaming occurs and how ageing is integrated in development policies. In many developing countries, the most prominent instrument for poverty eradication is the PRSP. One important signpost of successful implementation therefore may be the extent to which ageing is integrated into national poverty policies and the PRSP process. In assessing their national poverty reduction strategies, Governments are in an excellent position simultaneously to review the implementation of the poverty, employment and human rights targets of the Madrid Plan of Action.

42. The bottom-up approach also envisages that older persons will be active participants in the review and appraisal process. This could be ensured by establishing procedures for transmitting to policy makers the views of older persons regarding the impact of policies that affect them. In order to engage civil society in policy development, monitoring and evaluation, many forms of participatory research and assessment are being used by donors, development agencies and Governments. These have far-reaching effects on policy-making in many countries. The essence of the participatory method is to listen to stakeholders and give them a

chance to state their views at different stages of the process. This allows a different type of information to emerge, which may be more qualitative in nature than the traditional quantitative monitoring indicators. The non-governmental organization HelpAge International has recently embarked on a pilot citizen-monitoring project in five countries. Groups of older persons decide on what aspects of policies which affect them they want to monitor, how they will monitor them and how they will make sure that the outcomes reach the appropriate government officials. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is following this initiative to illustrate "lessons learned" and best practices for Member States in the review and appraisal process of the Madrid Plan of Action.

43. An expert group meeting will be organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in cooperation with the Government of Malta and the International Institute on Ageing, in Valletta in November 2003 to explore further the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, identify modalities for the bottom-up approach and coordinate with and involve intergovernmental organizations and civil society to the greatest extent possible.

44. While the principal approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action is now defined, additional efforts are required to clarify the content of modalities and periodicity of the review and appraisal process. **The General Assembly may wish to request the Commission for Social Development to take up this task at its forty-second session in 2004.** Additionally, the Madrid Plan of Action called for the Commission to integrate the different dimensions of population ageing in its work. **Thus, the Assembly may wish to suggest that the Commission apply an ageing perspective in its consideration of priority themes related to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.**

Notes

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 26 (E/2003/26)*.